

GADGETS

MAGAZINE

COVER STORY

**Tech vs. Disasters:
The Digital Frontline**
The Algorithm Could Save
or Bury You
No Power? No Problem!

GADGETSLAB

**ASUS Vivobook
S16 (S3607C)**
HONOR 400 5G
realme 14 5G

TEST DRIVE

**Kia Carnival 2.2
SX Diesel AT**

FEATURE

Experience
immersive all-day
gaming with the
wallet-friendly
vivo Y29!

READY FOR ANYTHING

Tech to Thrive, Rain or Shine

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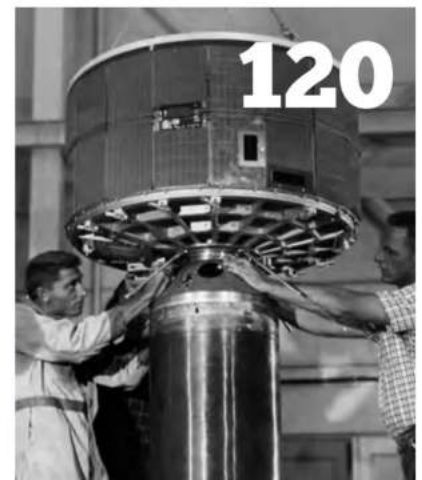
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Words by Gabriel Pe

TECH VERSUS DISASTERS

The Digital Frontline

In recent years, natural disasters have grown increasingly severe and frequent. Floods are becoming more widespread, storms more destructive, and the effects of climate change and rising sea levels are introducing unprecedented volatility into global weather systems. From stronger typhoons to harsher droughts, the world is bracing for the escalating impact of a changing climate.





"As climate change continues to reshape our planet, natural disasters are becoming an inevitable part of our reality. But the future is not without hope. Through innovation, we are no longer passive victims of nature's fury."

But amid these growing challenges, technology has emerged as a crucial ally. From disaster prediction and prevention to emergency response and recovery, new tech is helping humanity confront natural disasters with greater resilience and preparedness.

Predicting the Unpredictable

One of the most powerful ways technology is transforming disaster management is through improved prediction—anticipating when, where, and how disasters are likely to strike. At the forefront of this evolution is Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is harnessing vast datasets from sensors, satellites, and surveillance systems to forecast disaster scenarios with remarkable precision.

AI models can simulate the conditions under which disasters might occur and project their likely

paths and impacts. For example, by analyzing real-time satellite data and input from land- and sea-based sensors, AI can help chart the trajectory of typhoons with increasing accuracy. Historical weather data, combined with topographical and hydrological information, enables AI to assess areas most vulnerable to flooding—factoring in not just rainfall but also urban infrastructure such as roads, dams, and dikes that alter natural water flows.

However, the strength of AI lies in the quality of data it processes. That's why advancements in sensor technology are just as critical. High-resolution satellites provide sharper, more frequent imaging of weather patterns and disaster-prone areas. Sophisticated seismic sensors are now being deployed in previously unmonitored regions, enhancing our understanding of tectonic movements

and increasing the lead time for earthquake warnings.

On the Frontlines of Disaster Response

Beyond forecasting, technology is revolutionizing the way we respond when disaster strikes. Speed and safety are paramount in rescue operations, and modern tools are making both more achievable.

One notable development is the integration of satellite-based SOS messaging into smartphones. These features allow users to reach emergency services even in areas without cellular reception or internet access. Meanwhile, GPS technology—long a staple of navigation—continues to improve in precision and accessibility, enabling rescuers to locate individuals with pinpoint accuracy during emergencies.

Drones and robotics are also reshaping disaster response. With increasingly sophisticated cameras and sensors, drones are now indispensable tools for aerial surveys, reconnaissance, and search-and-rescue missions. They provide critical situational awareness without endangering human responders and can access otherwise unreachable locations, such as collapsed buildings or flooded areas.

Early Warning Systems (EWS) and public emergency alerts have also seen significant upgrades. Governments around the world now leverage advanced sensors, AI-powered analysis, and geolocation mapping to issue faster and more accurate warnings. Most crucially, dissemination has been democratized: alerts can be pushed directly to smartphones, ensuring faster reach and wider coverage.

Social media platforms and crowd-sourced data also play a growing role in supplying real-time updates to both citizens and first responders.

Staying Connected When It Matters Most

Perhaps one of the most understated yet essential aspects of disaster resilience is the ability to remain connected during emergencies. Advances in battery technology, solar power, and portable energy storage have enabled households to keep essential devices running even when the grid fails. Power banks, solar panels, and ruggedized energy solutions are increasingly part of emergency preparedness kits.

Meanwhile, satellite-based internet services like Starlink have introduced a lifeline for communication in

disaster-hit areas where terrestrial networks are down. These technologies are empowering communities to stay informed, maintain contact with authorities, and coordinate relief efforts despite infrastructural damage.

Braving the Storm with Technology

As climate change continues to reshape our planet, natural disasters are becoming an inevitable part of our reality. But the future is not without hope. Through innovation, we are no longer passive victims of nature's fury. From predictive modeling to lifesaving response tools, technology is helping us brace for impact—and bounce back stronger.

The storm may be growing, but so too is our capacity to weather it.



Words by Aljhelyn Piador

You felt dizzy and thought it might be just a simple case of vertigo. Then your phone buzzed. You open your feed and see it: a flood of posts from internet friends asking, "Did you feel the earthquake?" Social media, it turns out, can sometimes move faster than your own instincts. It's not just a reaction. It's real-time validation. And in that split second, you realize the power it holds. A lifeline used to be a hotline. Now, it's a tweet, a hashtag, a live video tagged to your barangay. As climate disasters grow more extreme, the first responders we count on may turn to scrolling, not dialing.

THE ALGORITHM COULD SAVE OR BURY YOU

Why visibility on social media during disasters could mean the difference between being rescued and being ignored, and how we can make the system work better.

When a Hashtag Becomes a Lifeline

In February 2024, a deadly landslide hit Maco, Davao de Oro, displacing thousands and burying families under tons of debris. Some survivors, armed only with their phones, posted geotagged photos and pleas for help on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter). Their online visibility helped rescue volunteers locate them more quickly. But others, those without mobile data or knowledge of the platforms, waited in silence, unseen and unreachable.

Just months later, in July, Typhoon Carina caused flooding in parts of Marikina and Pasig. Again, Filipinos turned to social media. This time, they used hashtags, live videos, and crowd-sourced platforms like MapaKalamidad.ph to send out distress calls. Posts with sharp visuals and specific location tags tend to spread quickly. Others, lacking these details, disappeared into the algorithm's void.

The lesson? **In a disaster, being rescued may depend not just on where you are or how urgent your situation is, but on whether your post is visible enough to reach the right people.**

In short: **you don't just need help—you need to be seen.**

This isn't new. When Typhoon Ulysses struck in 2020, the hashtags #RescuePH and #CagayanNeedsHelp were more than just calls for attention—they were lifelines. Digital volunteers trawled Twitter, amplifying posts that had photos, locations, and emotionally charged language. The algorithm rewarded content that mimicked breaking news or pulled at heartstrings.

And this isn't accidental. Social media platforms prioritize what keeps people engaged even during a crisis.

So, while some urgent posts gained traction and led to swift rescues, others with the same level of desperation but fewer clicks were drowned out.

The terrifying reality is this: **your survival can depend on how fluently you speak the algorithm's language.**

Tech Literacy to Algorithm Survival

Recent research reinforces these lived experiences. A 2023 Philippine study that analyzed **real-time tweets during disasters** showed that **posts with emotional language, local terms, and clear visuals** were more likely to be **flagged by responders and algorithms alike**. Another study found that **distress posts using barangay names and native expressions** gained more traction, **confirming that visibility hinges on emotional and cultural specificity**.

A broader global review warned that **digital inequality, misinformation, and the lack of posting standards** often **render urgent posts invisible**. These studies don't just reflect sentiment; they show why **algorithm fluency is now a survival skill**.

Let's unpack some insights from these cases:

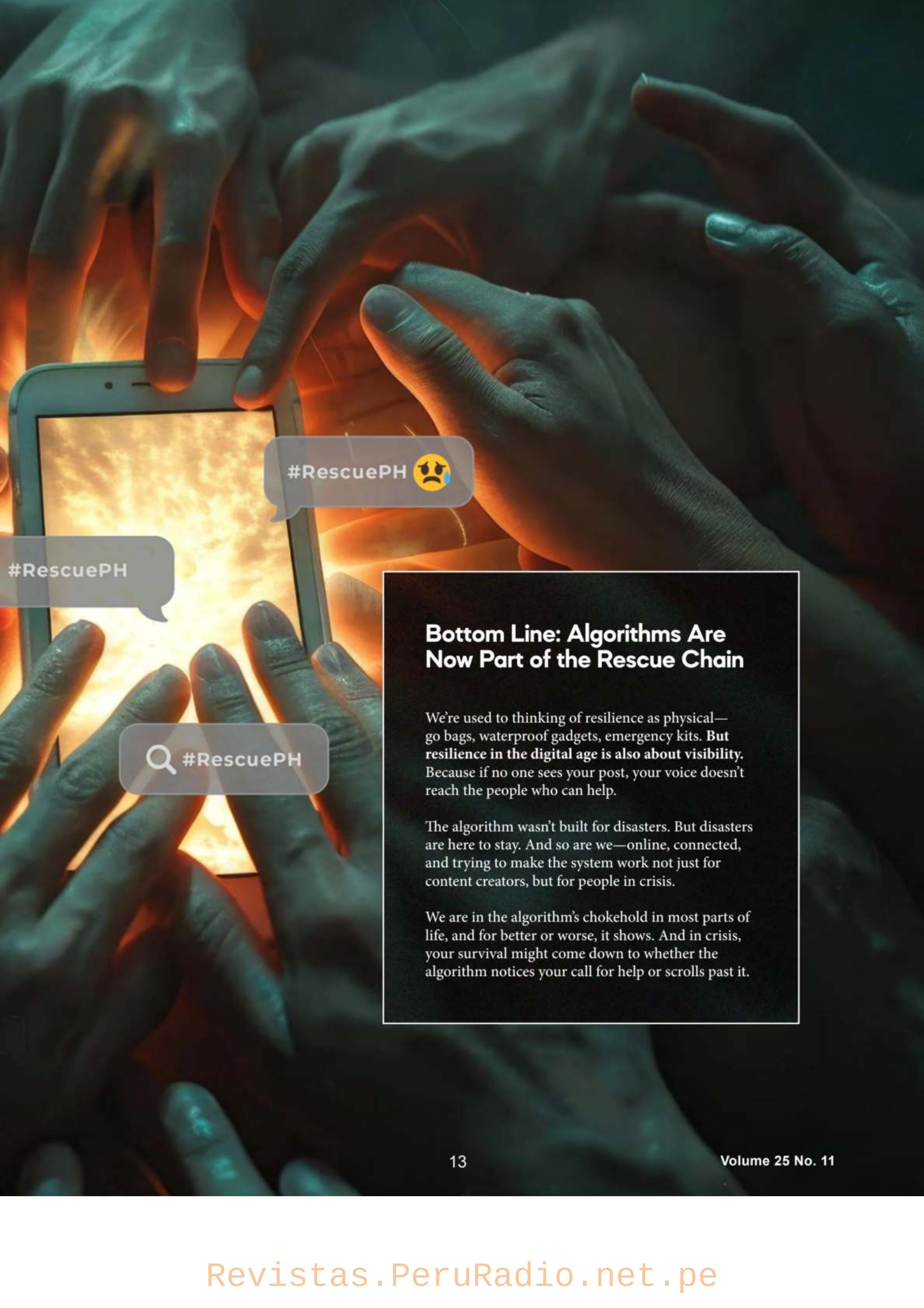
Understanding how visibility works is crucial. Posts that include hashtags like #RescuePH, personal narratives, specific location tags, and images are more likely to gain traction. **Emotional tone and urgency, when paired with clear details, help content travel further and faster, boosting its chances of reaching those who can respond.**

Yet, digital inequality presents a dangerous gap. Many people lack the know-how to compose an effective SOS message, while others may have limited access to the internet or only know how to post within closed networks, such as Facebook friend lists. These constraints can silence even the most urgent calls for help.

Grassroots efforts are helping bridge the gap. Volunteer-driven sites like MapaKalamidad.ph and groups tracking #RescuePH plays a crucial role in surfacing overlooked content. These digital responders act as manual amplifiers within a system still governed by attention and engagement.

The platforms themselves hold the power to make systemic change. Imagine a built-in Disaster Mode—a feature that lets urgent posts bypass typical engagement metrics and algorithmic ranking entirely. Instead of likes or shares determining visibility, **posts flagged as life-threatening would be prioritized by design.**

Social media giants like Facebook and X could implement verified SOS systems, or even activate temporary, geo-targeted emergency modes that boost rescue-related content in affected areas. **Visibility, in these cases, shouldn't depend on virality; it should be automatic.**



#RescuePH 🙄

#RescuePH

🔍 #RescuePH

Bottom Line: Algorithms Are Now Part of the Rescue Chain

We're used to thinking of resilience as physical—go bags, waterproof gadgets, emergency kits. **But resilience in the digital age is also about visibility.** Because if no one sees your post, your voice doesn't reach the people who can help.

The algorithm wasn't built for disasters. But disasters are here to stay. And so are we—online, connected, and trying to make the system work not just for content creators, but for people in crisis.

We are in the algorithm's chokehold in most parts of life, and for better or worse, it shows. And in crisis, your survival might come down to whether the algorithm notices your call for help or scrolls past it.

NO POWER PROE

A Pre-Storm Checklist for Staying Charged & Connected

Words by Phia Manuell Layoso



ER? BLEM!

Let's keep it real: in the Philippines, power outages are part of the package—sometimes even without a storm looming on the horizon. But when the dark clouds do roll in, so should your tech prep game.

Whether you're weathering a full-blown typhoon or simply an unplanned brownout, this guide will keep you plugged in, connected, and composed—rain or shine. We'll take you through smart, simple steps and awesome tech gadgets that have evolved over the years. Spoiler alert: today's power options are far more awesome than your lola's emergency candle collection.



What's Different: From Generators to Solar Devices

Those days are long gone when our sole backup was a clunky generator or carton of D-sized batteries. Nowadays, tech-savvy Filipinos have more environmentally friendly, compact, and powerful choices. Say hello to:

Solar chargers with solid-state batteries – These weigh less, are tougher, and have quicker charging times than your old-fashioned solar panels. Better yet, they're safer (no leakage or overheating) and can charge anything from phones to laptops.

Power banks with some serious power – We're not referring to those adorable ones with cat ears. New power banks nowadays come equipped with fast charging capabilities, multiple ports, and even AC outlets, allowing you to plug in small appliances or WiFi routers.

Crank radios and flashlights – Imagine an old-fashioned radio with a twist. Not only do these get you news, but they charge your phone and illuminate your room as well—just crank and off you go.

Pre-Storm Tech Checklist: Stay Connected Like a Pro

These are the things you can do ahead of time, in case power might not be available—so you can remain informed, entertained, and connected during adverse weather or brownouts.



1. Charge Everything (Before the Power Goes Out!)

Why?

After the power is out, you won't be able to recharge your devices.

What to do:

Charge and fully power your critical electronics, such as:

- Phones – for calls, text messages, and updates
- Laptops/tablets – for work or leisure
- Power banks – so you can charge on the go afterwards
- Portable fans/LED lamps – to keep cool and be able to see in the dark

Pro tip: Enable Low Power Mode on all devices and disable any unused apps. This extends your battery's lifespan that much longer.

2. Use Solar Power Like a Boss

Why?

The sun is still working—even if the grid isn't! Solar chargers turn

sunlight into energy that you can use with your devices.

What to do:

Leave your solar charger out early to charge up with a full “tank” of power. It can still gather plenty of energy even on cloudy days.

What's new and hot:

New solar chargers tend to employ solid-state batteries, which are lighter, quicker-charging, and more secure compared to previous models.

3. Crank It Up

Why?

When the sun sets and the batteries run out, crank-powered devices are your closest companions.

What to do

Purchase a crank radio—a tiny gadget that powers up by cranking a handle. No batteries or charging needed. Most models also include:

- A flashlight
- An FM/AM radio for weather announcements
- A USB port to charge your cell phone by cranking

It's low-tech, but very dependable.

4. Download Offline Essentials

Why?

If a mobile signal weakens or the internet connection disappears, you'll rely on the information saved on your phone.

What to do:

Download the following while you still have WiFi:

- Offline maps (Google Maps allows you to save an area)
- PDFs or e-books on emergency procedures or contact numbers
- Offline messaging apps (such as Bridgefy) that operate using Bluetooth
- Music or podcasts to relax or entertain yourself



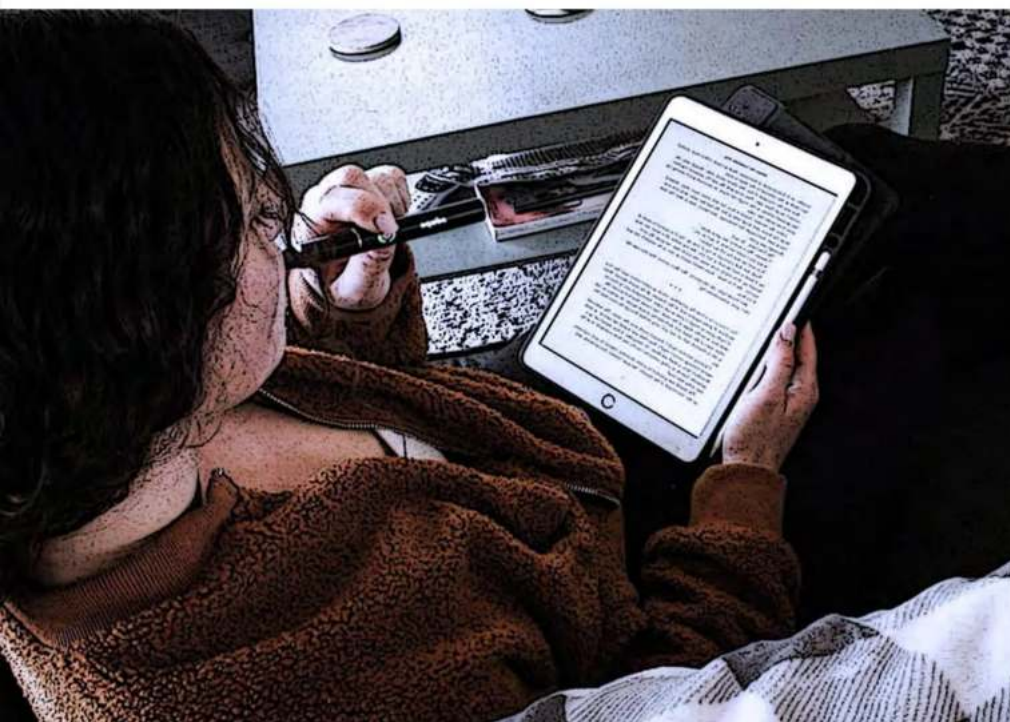
5. Conserve Data, Save Battery

Why?

The power and data of your phone might be restricted during a blackout.

What to do:

- Disable auto-updates and background apps that consume power and data
- Use “Lite” versions of apps (e.g., Facebook Lite) that use less memory and battery
- Use Airplane Mode when not expecting calls/texts—it saves a lot of power



Being prepared is not about panicking. With some tech prep (and a pinch of creativity), you can ride out any storm like a pro. Next time the lights flicker or your barangay siren starts wailing, keep this in mind: you're in charge—even when the grid isn't.

Anker Laptop Powerbank

Charger

PHP4,995

THE ANKER LAPTOP POWERBANK (25K, 165W, Built-in and Retractable Cables) is built for professionals who are constantly on the move. Compact and lightweight, it packs a 25,000mAh battery capacity capable of charging up to four devices simultaneously via its four ports. Whether you're at an airport lounge or working from a café, this device ensures you stay productive without compromising on performance.

With 165W of total output, you can charge your laptop, tablet, phone, and earbuds all at once. It's also travel-friendly and fully compliant with CAAP Guidelines for Air Travel (based on CAAP Memo

FOD-APD-2023-008), making it safe to carry on board flights.

One of its most practical features is its integrated cable design. It includes a 15cm long built-in USB-C cable and a 70 cm retractable USB-C cable—solving the age-old issue of tangled or missing cords while traveling.

To top it off, the Anker Laptop Powerbank is equipped with a smart screen that provides real-time updates on power status, battery life, and temperature—ensuring safe, efficient, and transparent charging.





Anker Prime Charger

Charger **PHP10,495**

FOR THOSE WHO REQUIRE a robust desktop or travel hub, the Anker Prime Charger (250W, 6 Ports, GaNPrime) is an ideal solution. Whether you're powering multiple laptops, tablets, or phones, this 6-port charger offers up to 250W of total output, efficiently delivering full-speed charging to all connected devices. Its minimal and compact design means it won't clutter your space—and it's portable enough to take on the road.

Powered by Anker's advanced GaNPrime technology, the charger intelligently manages power distribution across

devices to ensure optimal charging speed and safety. The built-in smart control dial allows you to instantly adjust power output, while activeShield™ technology monitors temperature and safeguards connected devices against overheating and power surges.

This makes the Anker Prime Charger an excellent companion for hybrid workers and digital creatives who need a reliable and high-performing power hub that adapts to any scenario—whether at home, in the office, or on the go.

Canon imagePROGRAF TC-21

Large-Format Printer

CANON HAS ONCE AGAIN redefined accessibility and precision in wide-format printing with the introduction of the imagePROGRAF TC-21—a compact desktop large-format printer that bridges the gap between professional-grade performance and everyday practicality. Tailored for users who need to produce technical drawings, vivid posters, and marketing materials without the footprint or cost of traditional wide-format units, the TC-21 delivers powerful results in a streamlined, user-centric design.

Built to adapt to modern workspaces, the imagePROGRAF TC-21 integrates an enhanced Auto Sheet Feeder that supports not just A1+ roll media but also a wide range of print sizes, including A3, A4, postcards, envelopes, and labels. This versatility allows it to simultaneously handle tasks such as architectural renderings, restaurant menus, and event flyers—each executed with stunning clarity. The inclusion of a tilt-adjustable control panel and full front access for paper and ink handling underscores Canon's emphasis on ergonomic operation, even in compact or low-clearance setups.

Where the TC-21 truly shines is in its print quality. Adopting the same image processing architecture as Canon's higher-end models, it produces rich, vibrant colors on even basic paper

stock. Features like Minimal Margin Printing maximize the printable area—top and bottom borders are trimmed down, and lateral margins are virtually eliminated on roll paper. The high-capacity ink tanks are engineered for efficiency, reducing refill interruptions and supporting

high-volume workflows. Meanwhile, PosterArtist software enables users to design professional-grade output with intuitive ease.

Canon also infuses its latest innovation with a deeper commitment to sustainability. The TC-21



incorporates approximately 5% recycled steel and 40% recycled resin into its body, replacing traditional packaging with recyclable cardboard and achieving gold certification under the U.S. EPEAT environmental standards. This shift aligns with Canon's longstanding Kyosei philosophy—a pledge to harmoniously advance business while addressing environmental and societal needs.

Available through Canon's extensive distribution network in the Philippines, the imagePROGRAF TC-21 brings a new standard of quality, usability, and sustainability to the realm of large-format printing—ideal for professionals, creatives, and businesses ready to scale their output without sacrificing space, speed, or environmental responsibility.



HUAWEI WATCH FIT 4 Series

Smartwatch

PHP6,499 – Watch Fit 4

PHP6,999 – Watch Fit 4 with NFC

PHP13,999 – Watch Fit 4 Pro

HUAWEI is redefining smart fitness wearables with the launch of the HUAWEI WATCH FIT 4 Series, combining professional-grade features with sleek design to empower users to move confidently and live more freely. This latest smartwatch line introduces both the HUAWEI WATCH FIT 4 and HUAWEI WATCH FIT 4 Pro—each crafted for those who want high performance and holistic wellness tracking in a lightweight form factor.



The WATCH FIT 4 weighs just 27g and measures a slim 9.5mm thick, ensuring all-day comfort. A rotating crown makes navigation feel intuitive and responsive. The WATCH FIT 4 Pro takes it up a notch with a refined 9.3mm profile, 30.4g body, and premium materials including scratch-resistant sapphire glass, a titanium alloy bezel, and an aviation-grade aluminum chassis. A vibrant display

with a peak brightness of 3000nits ensures clear visibility even under bright sunlight.

Engineered for serious outdoor use, the WATCH FIT 4 Series introduces new hardware and software that support a wide range of sports. A built-in barometer provides elevation gain data, and seven outdoor sports modes—including mountain climbing and skiing—are optimized for adventure. With the upgraded dual-frequency HUAWEI Sunflower Positioning System, users can rely on 30% improved GNSS accuracy, even in challenging environments.







Offline maps, route import, and navigation features are all built in to guide your journey. The Pro version enhances this with offline contour maps, checkpoint navigation, and a professional trail running mode that supports serious runners in exploring unfamiliar terrain with confidence.

For golf enthusiasts, the HUAWEI WATCH FIT 4 Pro includes access to over 15,000 global golf course maps—including 111 within the Philippines—and features like real-time GPS-based distance measurement, half-scoring reports, and performance tracking through scorecard operations. On water, the series becomes even more versatile. Seven watersport tracking modes, including sailing and stand-up paddleboarding (SUP), offer performance metrics tailored to each activity. The WATCH FIT 4 Pro is also built for underwater use, with water resistance up to 40 meters and a dedicated Freediving mode that provides real-time metrics, including depth and speed.

In the health arena, the WATCH FIT 4 Series introduces meaningful upgrades. It now supports all-day Heart Rate Variability (HRV) tracking, offering more dynamic insights into users' cardiovascular and stress levels. The Emotional Wellbeing Assistant goes a step further, analyzing emotional cues to guide mental wellness. The Pro version includes the new HUAWEI TruSense System, which delivers faster, more accurate tracking across multiple health indicators. It also features a built-in ECG function, putting immediate heart health insights directly on the wrist.

Smart features, such as a voice notepad, quick reply to messages, remote shutter, and weather updates, make day-to-day use even more convenient. Broad compatibility with both Android and iOS ensures seamless device integration. Battery performance is impressive, with the WATCH FIT 4 delivering up to 10 days of usage and fast charging that reaches 75% in just 45 minutes. The Pro version charges fully in 60 minutes, ensuring users are always ready to go.

The HUAWEI WATCH FIT 4 comes in Black, White, and Purple, while the NFC-enabled version is available in Gray. The flagship WATCH FIT Pro comes in Black, Green, and Blue.





instax mini 41

Camera

PHP6,599

FUJIFILM PHILIPPINES has introduced the latest addition to its beloved line of analog instant cameras—the instax mini 41™. This new entry-level model offers the signature joy of on-the-spot photo printing with a fresh, fashion-forward twist. Designed for users who love the charm of vintage style but expect modern convenience, the mini 41 blends form and function in an updated take on a cult classic.

Building on the success of the widely adored instax mini 40™, the mini 41 retains its predecessor's classic design cues while evolving its aesthetic. A sleek black body paired with dark-toned silver accents and a bold pop of orange lends it a sharp, contemporary edge. It's not just a camera—it's a statement piece that complements both everyday outfits and curated looks.

Functionality is at the heart of the mini 41's appeal. A key enhancement is its improved Close-up Mode, developed to reduce the parallax effect that often plagues instant cameras during tight framing. This is particularly useful for capturing crisp close-up shots or perfect selfies. With a single twist of the lens, users can activate Close-up Mode, which automatically adjusts the viewfinder to align more

accurately with the final print. Combined with the built-in Selfie Mirror beside the lens, users can frame and compose their shots with confidence, knowing that what they see is what they'll get.

Equally intelligent is the Automatic Light Adjustment feature, which optimizes every shot in real time. As soon as the shutter button is pressed, the camera measures ambient light and adjusts both shutter speed and flash output to match the environment. Whether it's a sunlit street, a cozy indoor corner, or a night out with friends, the instax mini 41 ensures every print comes out bright, well-balanced, and full of personality.

To complement the camera's release, Fujifilm is also launching a color-matched protective case that enhances both usability and style. This thoughtful addition reflects the brand's continued commitment to making instant photography as fun and accessible as it is fashionable.

Fujifilm's latest launch reinforces its ongoing mission to expand the instax™ ecosystem—bringing new, joyful ways for people to express themselves, capture memories, and turn everyday moments into printed keepsakes.

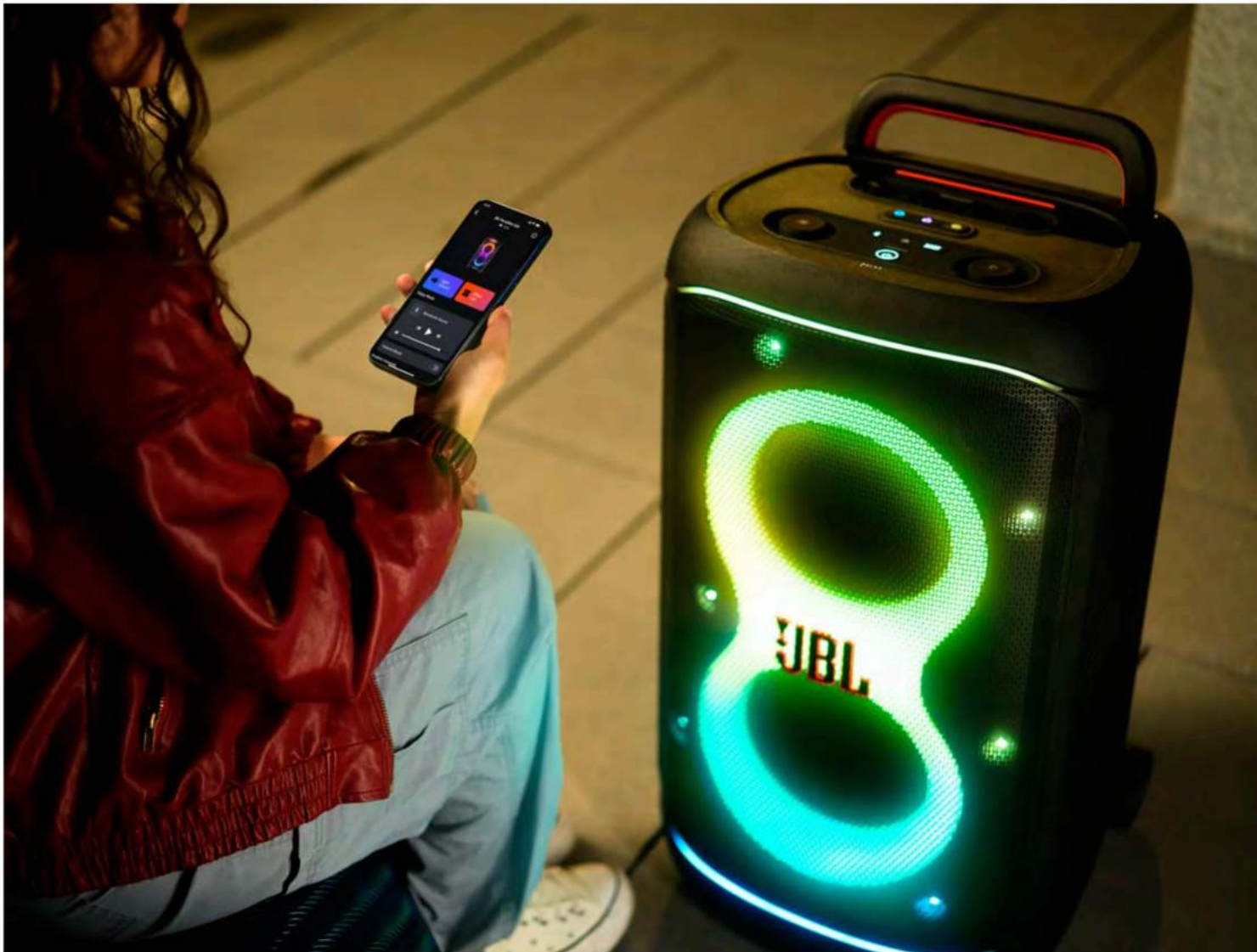
JBL PartyBox 520

Speaker

PHP42,999

WHEN IT COMES to throwing an unforgettable party, the JBL PartyBox 520 brings the boom. As the most powerful battery-powered speaker in JBL's PartyBox lineup, it delivers next-level audio intensity, thanks to JBL's proprietary AI Sound Boost. This smart tech optimizes the music signal in real-time, pushing the driver to its limits for bigger, cleaner sound with deeper bass and less distortion.

The rugged IPX4 splashproof body is built for action, complete with a telescopic handle and improved wheels to make portability effortless. Play up to 15 hours on a single charge, and keep the energy flowing with fast-charging and replaceable batteries. Want to expand the vibe? Auracast lets you connect wirelessly to other JBL speakers, filling your space with full-spectrum sound.



JBL PartyBox Encore 2

Speaker

PHP24,999

TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT wherever you go with the JBL PartyBox Encore 2. Compact, powerful, and ready to perform, this speaker is built for moments that deserve a soundtrack—and a mic. With two wireless microphones included, the Encore 2 transforms any gathering into an instant karaoke night.

Bluetooth 5.4 with LE Audio ensures crystal-clear streaming, while redesigned ergonomic handles make it easy to bring the party with you. A 15-hour battery life and a 10-minute quick charge (for 80 minutes of extra play) mean your voice never fades before the chorus.



JBL PartyBox Encore Essential 2

Speaker

PHP18,999

BIG VIBES in a smaller footprint—that's the JBL PartyBox Encore Essential 2. Perfect for spontaneous parties and cozy get-togethers, this speaker combines powerful sound with a dynamic lightshow to bring any space to life.

Bluetooth 5.4 and ergonomic handles make it a breeze to carry and connect, while its 15-hour battery life ensures the night runs long. Need a quick energy boost? A 10-minute charge gives you an extra 80 minutes of playback.

JBL Flip 7

Speaker

PHP7,999

SLEEK, STURDY, and sound-packed—the JBL Flip 7 is made for music on the move. Designed with a new interchangeable finger loop and carabiner hook, it's built for portability without compromise.

Delivering punchy, distortion-free bass via AI Sound Boost and a newly upgraded dome tweeter, the Flip 7 maintains clarity and power across outdoor or indoor settings. It's IP68 waterproof and dustproof, making it the perfect companion for poolside hangs or park picnics.

With 16 hours of playtime, Auracast pairing, and improved Bluetooth 5.4, the Flip 7 is a solid upgrade for those who want both function and form.

It is available in 9 colors, including Black, Sand, and Funky Black.



JBL Charge 6

Speaker

PHP10,999

FOR THOSE WHO need music that lasts and sound that travels, the JBL Charge 6 delivers. Designed with a detachable strap for on-the-go ease, it brings enhanced bass and powerful output through AI Sound Boost and an upgraded woofer.

Thanks to Playtime Boost, the Charge 6 boasts up to 28 hours of battery life. And with JBL's Auracast tech, syncing multiple compatible speakers is just a tap away.

Still true to its name, the Charge 6 doubles as a power bank, letting you top up your devices while the music plays.

It comes in 9 vibrant color options.



JBL Horizon 3

Clock Radio

PHP7,699

MORE THAN JUST an alarm clock, the JBL Horizon 3 is your daily wellness assistant. Designed to enhance sleep routines and elevate mornings, this device features ambient lighting, relaxing soundscapes, and sunrise alarms to help regulate your natural rhythm.

Enjoy JBL's rich stereo sound via dual full-range transducers and passive radiators. Whether you're streaming from your phone or tuning in to FM radio, the Horizon 3 fills the room with warm, immersive audio.

With Auracast and Bluetooth 5.3 support, multi-room playback is seamless. Now compatible with the JBL One App, you can manage alarms, EQ, and lighting straight from your device.



Lenovo

Lenovo ThinkCentre M Series

Desktop PC

Volume 25 No. 11

34



LENOVO is setting a new standard for business desktop computing with its latest generation of AI-powered ThinkCentre M Series Gen 6 desktops. Built for the demands of today's evolving work environments, the lineup delivers high-performance computing across multiple form factors—tower, compact, and all-in-one—designed to meet the unique needs of enterprises across industries.

Tower models like the ThinkCentre M90t Gen 6 offer uncompromising performance with up to Intel vPro Enterprise and AI-capable Intel Core Ultra 9 processors (Series 2), DDR5 memory, and up to eight expansion slots for future-proof flexibility. These systems are designed for intensive workloads, such as AI model training, 3D design, and advanced data analysis, and are backed by a robust range of I/O ports for superior connectivity.

For organizations requiring power in compact spaces, Lenovo offers ultra-small 1-liter models, such as the ThinkCentre M90q Gen 6. Designed to be mounted behind a monitor or even stored inside a drawer, these desktops deliver full-scale enterprise performance in a minimalist footprint. With up to Intel Core Ultra 9 processors and optional discrete NPUs providing 30 TOPs of on-device AI performance, these models are a perfect fit for industries such as healthcare, finance, and retail, where space is limited but performance cannot be compromised.

All-in-one options, such as the ThinkCentre M90a Gen 6, are optimized for visual workloads and clutter-free environments. Featuring a 23.8" near-edgeless FHD anti-glare display with 99% sRGB color accuracy, a 120Hz refresh rate, and certifications for EyeSafe and IP55-rated water and dust resistance, this model is particularly suited for creative fields, healthcare, and educational environments. With AI performance capabilities reaching up to 260 TOPs, these AIOs combine intelligent computing with elegant design.

Across the range, Lenovo integrates its proprietary AI technologies. Lenovo AI Now acts as an on-device assistant to streamline daily workflows, while AI Turbo Engine dynamically adjusts system resources for optimized performance. All models come equipped with Lenovo ThinkShield—an end-to-end security suite that includes dTPM 2.0 encryption, Smart USB Protection, and selective USB port disablement for enhanced physical and data security.

The ThinkCentre M Series Gen 6 empowers businesses to work smarter, more securely, and more efficiently with scalable AI-ready desktop computing.

Lenovo ThinkVision T Series

Monitor

MODERN PROFESSIONALS require more than just a screen—they need a visual workspace that's immersive, intelligent, and environmentally conscious. Lenovo's new ThinkVision T Series Gen 40 monitors deliver exactly that, with stunning visual performance, versatile connectivity, and sustainable design in one refined package.

These monitors offer vivid WQHD and UHD resolution displays, utilizing IPS technology to ensure consistent color and clarity from every angle. With 99% sRGB and BT.709 color gamut coverage, visuals are accurate, vibrant, and true-to-life—ideal for professionals in design, media, finance, or engineering. Support for variable refresh rates between 48Hz and 120Hz ensures smoother motion rendering while improving energy efficiency, making them an excellent choice for both productivity and multimedia use.

Connectivity is streamlined with USB-C one-cable docking on select models, delivering up to 100W of fast charging power while simplifying cable management. Professionals can also take advantage of modular VoIP conferencing capabilities, including

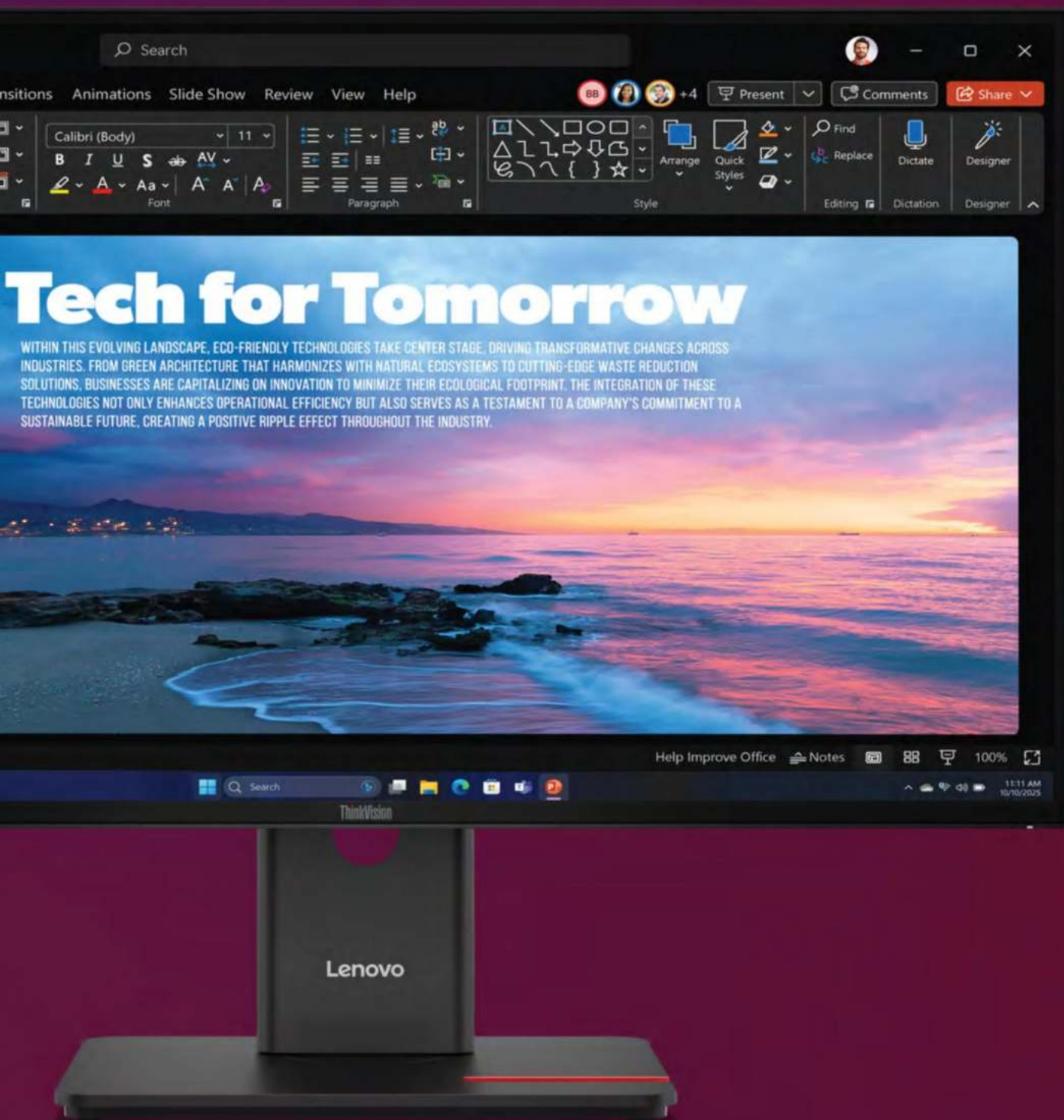
built-in webcams and microphones on select models, such as the T24D-4v and T27QD-4v, which offer AI-enhanced features that make remote communication more natural and efficient.

Lenovo's commitment to sustainable design is evident in every ThinkVision Gen 40 monitor. Each unit is constructed with up to 95% post-consumer recycled plastics and packaged without plastic. These monitors are certified by leading environmental standards, including ENERGY STAR, TCO, and EPEAT Gold, reflecting Lenovo's broader commitment to building a more sustainable tech ecosystem.

IT teams will appreciate the centralized control offered by Lenovo Display Fleet Manager (LDFM), which supports remote asset tracking, display settings configuration, and firmware updates. With LDFM, updates can be deployed in batches, reducing downtime and boosting operational efficiency across large deployments.

Designed for the future of work, the ThinkVision T Series Gen 40 is an intelligent, sustainable extension of your productivity.





realme GT 7 Series

Smartphone

PHP37,999 – GT 7 (12GB+512GB)

PHP29,999 – GT 7T (12GB+256GB)

REALME REDEFINES mobile performance once again with the launch of the much-anticipated realme GT 7 Series in the Philippines. Comprising the realme GT 7 and realme GT 7T, the new lineup delivers flagship-level innovation, cutting-edge processors, next-gen cooling, and rapid charging.

At the heart of the realme GT 7 is the powerful MediaTek Dimensity 9400e processor, pushing an impressive AnTuTu score of over 2.2 million, making it one of the fastest performers in its segment. This beast of a phone is built for mobile gaming, content creation, and multitasking with minimal lag and maximum efficiency.

With a 7000mAh Massive Battery, the GT 7 delivers 5–15% longer usage time compared to the previous generation. It promises up to 8.9 hours of Mobile Legends, over 20 hours of YouTube streaming, or nearly 26 hours of uninterrupted video calls. When it's time to recharge, the 120W SUPERVOOC Charge takes the battery from 1% to 100% in just 40 minutes. A quick 5-minute top-up gives 22%—ideal for users always on the move.

Positioned as the more accessible sibling, the realme GT 7T still packs a punch with its MediaTek Dimensity 8400-MAX processor, earning an impressive 1.78 million AnTuTu score. It shares the same 7000mAh battery and fast-charging prowess as the GT 7, making it a reliable daily driver for power users and entertainment lovers alike.

realme's IceSense Graphene Design debuts with this series, introducing a 7700mm² Cooling System that integrates graphene materials for both aesthetics and heat dissipation. It's the first of its kind in the industry.

The GT 7 Series comes in two colors—IceSense Blue and IceSense Black—with a Nano Velvet Coating finish that feels smooth and premium. The fiberglass rear panel mimics natural elements: icy ocean currents





for IceSense Blue and crystallized frost for IceSense Black. Beneath the surface, Thermal Conductive Gel and Bionic Heat Sensing work in tandem to keep temperatures stable even during intense usage.

With flagship-level performance and aggressive pricing, the realme GT 7 Series offers unbeatable value for users looking to upgrade. Whether you're after power, style, or next-level thermal control, this release proves that flagship experiences are no longer out of reach.

Redmi Pad 2 4G

Tablet

PHP10,499 – 6GB+128GB

PHP12,499 – 8GB+256GB

XIAOMI HAS UNVEILED the Redmi Pad 2 4G, a feature-packed entry-level entertainment tablet that brings upgraded specs and immersive features to a wider audience. With an impressive combination of high-definition visuals, immersive sound, seamless connectivity, and all-day battery life, the Redmi Pad 2 4G delivers an elevated entertainment experience for everyday use.

The tablet features an expansive 11-inch 2.5K display that offers crystal-clear detail and vibrant colors, ideal for streaming, browsing, and casual gaming. With a pixel density of 274ppi and a 90Hz AdaptiveSync refresh rate, visuals remain smooth and responsive, even during fast-paced scenes. Designed for all-day comfort, the screen incorporates DC dimming and carries TÜV Rheinland certifications for Low Blue Light (Software Solution), Flicker Free, and Circadian Friendly performance. Complementing the display is a quad-speaker setup with Dolby Atmos® and Hi-Res Audio, ensuring rich, immersive sound for music, movies, and games.

Running on the latest Xiaomi HyperOS 2, the Redmi Pad 2 4G enables seamless cross-device experiences, especially for users already within the Xiaomi ecosystem. With Xiaomi's Interconnectivity features, such as call sync, network sync, and shared clipboard, users enjoy intuitive multitasking. Call sync allows users to answer phone calls directly on the tablet, while network sync enables instant hotspot connection when Wi-Fi

is unavailable. The shared clipboard lets users copy and paste text or images across devices, creating a more integrated and fluid workflow between phone and tablet.

Powered by the MediaTek Helio G100-Ultra processor, the Redmi Pad 2 4G delivers smooth and reliable performance for everyday entertainment needs. A large 9000mAh battery supports extended viewing and usage with fewer charging interruptions. For users who require on-the-go connectivity, dual-SIM and dual 4G support ensure that streaming, browsing, and video calls remain uninterrupted even outside Wi-Fi zones. Its metal unibody design lends a sleek, premium feel that elevates the user experience.

The tablet also supports key accessories for enhanced productivity and creativity. The Redmi Smart Pen delivers a 60Hz refresh rate with millisecond-level low latency and only requires 10 grams of activation force, making writing, sketching, and note-taking feel natural and effortless. The Redmi Pad 2 Cover provides 360° protection, supports smart wake/sleep functions, and includes an adjustable stand for stable, hands-free viewing.

Offering a combination of immersive visuals, powerful audio, smart connectivity, and sleek portability, the Redmi Pad 2 4G is designed to make everyday entertainment more vibrant, connected, and accessible than ever before.





Solitaire PTK-208

PTZ Camera

SOLITAIRE, the Indian brand at the forefront of interactive technology and unified communication solutions, introduces the PTK-208. This next-generation 4K PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) camera promises to elevate professional and educational video conferencing experiences. Designed for meeting rooms, training halls, classrooms, and huddle spaces, the PTK-208 fuses intelligent design with advanced performance features to meet the demands of today's dynamic communication environments.





At the core of the PTK-208 is an 8.3MP 1/2.8" CMOS sensor capable of delivering stunning 4K Ultra HD resolution. Every frame is rendered with remarkable clarity, vivid color, and lifelike accuracy, making it ideal for executive boardrooms, virtual classrooms, and international conferencing. Its image quality ensures that participants remain fully engaged, whether in-person or dialing in from halfway across the globe.

But the PTK-208 isn't just about image—it's a showcase of smart technology. AI-driven auto-tracking enables the camera to intelligently follow presenters, allowing them to move naturally without needing manual adjustments. Gesture recognition and voice control further streamline interaction, freeing presenters to focus on delivery rather than device control.

Equally impressive is the audio performance. A four-microphone digital array captures voices clearly within a 10-meter range. Features like Acoustic Echo Cancellation (AEC), Automatic Noise Suppression (ANS), and Automatic Gain Control

(AGC) work in tandem to eliminate distractions and ensure that every word is heard with precision. Whether in mid-sized conference rooms or large lecture halls, the PTK-208 guarantees seamless audio pickup and clarity.

Versatility is also a hallmark of the PTK-208. With 10x optical zoom, Type-C and HDMI outputs, and a 3.5mm audio jack, the camera adapts to a wide range of configurations. It supports flexible installation options—desktop, tripod, or ceiling-mounted—making it suitable for a variety of use cases across business and education. Its IR remote and intuitive on-screen interface make it easy to operate, even for first-time users. Encased in a sleek, modern chassis, the PTK-208 embodies both function and style.

What sets the PTK-208 further apart is its plug-and-play simplicity. Each unit is pre-packaged for quick setup and immediate deployment. For businesses and institutions eager to upgrade their communication systems, this ensures minimal downtime and maximum efficiency.



Sony WH-1000XM6

Headphones

PHP27,999

SONY'S WH-1000X series has long been the benchmark for noise-canceling headphones. With the release of the new WH-1000XM6, the brand elevates its game once again—blending cutting-edge noise-canceling technology, studio-grade sound tuning, and an intelligent listening experience into a sleek, comfortable, and stylish form.

At the heart of its innovation is the new HD Noise Canceling Processor QN3, offering seven times more processing power than its predecessor. With 12 precision-placed microphones—1.5 times more than the XM5—the WH-1000XM6 adjusts noise cancellation in real time based on your surroundings

and movement. Whether you're navigating a busy terminal or trying to focus in a shared workspace, the Adaptive NC Optimizer intelligently blocks distractions, while Auto Ambient Sound mode ensures the important stuff—announcements, conversations, alerts—gets through when needed.

But noise cancellation is just the beginning. Sound quality is where the WH-1000XM6 shines. Developed in collaboration with mastering engineers from Sterling Sound, Battery Studios, and Coast Mastering, these headphones are built to deliver music as artists intended. Think richer vocals, punchier bass, and dynamic range that captures

a high-rigidity carbon fiber dome and voice coil structure that captures fine detail across frequencies, while DSEE Extreme™ and LDAC support ensure that even compressed music is upscaled and streamed in high resolution. Add to that Sony's 360 Reality Audio Upmix for Cinema and Game EQ, and the WH-1000XM6 becomes not just a headphone, but a multimedia powerhouse.

Call quality is also significantly upgraded. A six-microphone beamforming system, powered by AI, isolates your voice while filtering out background noise—ideal for remote calls or voice commands in busy environments. Whether you're on Zoom or simply chatting on the go, your voice comes through crystal clear.

All of this is wrapped in a design that balances premium materials with all-day comfort. The headband features a wider, softer fit lined with vegan leather, while newly engineered earpads reduce pressure and enhance passive noise isolation. The asymmetrical design makes it easy to identify left and right at a glance, and the foldable hinge—made with precision metal injection—folds flat into a compact case with a magnetic closure. Aesthetics haven't been overlooked either: choose from Black, Platinum Silver, or the striking new Midnight Blue.

Smarter listening also comes built-in. Scene-based Listening uses sensors

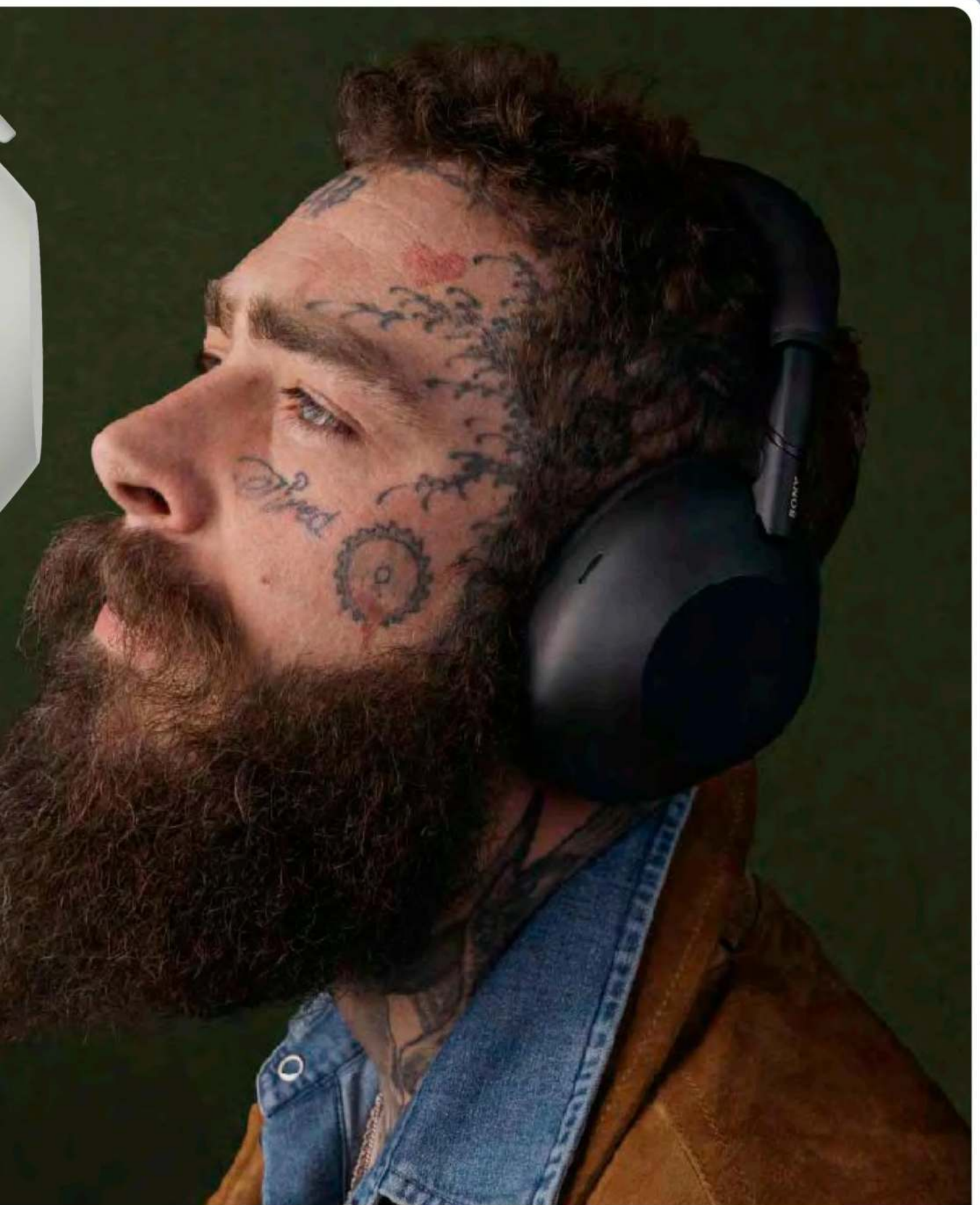
and location data to intelligently adjust settings based on your activity and environment. With Quick Access and deep integration with services like Spotify Tap, Apple Music, Amazon Music, and YouTube Music, jumping back into your playlist is just a tap away.

Battery life? Exceptional. Enjoy up to 30 hours of listening, or get a three-hour boost from just three minutes of charging. And if you're in a pinch, the XM6 lets you listen while charging—no downtime required.

Sony also continues its push for sustainability. Packaging for the WH-1000XM6 is made entirely from Original Blended Material—a recyclable mix of bamboo, sugarcane fiber, and post-consumer paper.

Finally, as part of its *"For The Music"* campaign, Sony teams up with global icon Post Malone to showcase how technology can deepen our connection with music. "These headphones make you feel completely inside the music," he says—apt words for a device that doesn't just play sound, but transports you.







Soundcore AeroFit 2

Earbuds

PHP5,895

THE ALL-NEW Soundcore AeroFit 2 open-ear earbuds are redefining how we experience communication, combining high-performance design with real-time AI translation for travelers, professionals, and anyone navigating multilingual environments. Whether you're on a solo trip abroad, attending an international conference, or collaborating with colleagues who speak another language, the AeroFit 2 transforms your experience with seamless, intelligent connectivity.



Designed to tackle the everyday frustrations of language barriers, these earbuds integrate real-time AI-powered translation directly into your ears. Two modes cater to different scenarios. The Face-to-Face Translation mode captures your voice, translates it, and plays it through your phone's speaker. When the other person replies, their voice is captured by your phone and translated into your earbuds. It's like having a personal interpreter walking with you—ideal for travel or casual interactions. Meanwhile, Real-Time Translation is perfect for passive listening, such as during lectures, webinars, or foreign shows. The speaker's voice is picked up by your phone, translated, and delivered directly to your ears, with a translated transcript optionally displayed on your screen for added clarity. Both modes support a wide range of languages,

including English, Mandarin, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German, Italian, Russian, Arabic, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Thai.

The AeroFit 2 goes beyond translation. With its open-ear design, it delivers high-quality sound while allowing users to remain fully aware of their surroundings. Unlike conventional earbuds that sit in the ear canal, the AeroFit 2 rests just outside it, making them ideal for commuters, multitaskers, or those who simply prefer not to tune the world out. The rotatable ear hook provides a secure yet lightweight fit for a variety of ear

shapes and is comfortable even when worn with glasses. Improvements from the previous generation include clearer audio and punchier bass, making music and voice playback equally enjoyable.

Touch-style controls simplify playback, volume adjustment, and switching between modes. A wireless charging case adds convenience, offering up to 10 hours of use on a single charge, with the case extending battery life to a total of 42 hours—more than enough for extended travel or long workdays.

Getting started is simple. Download the Soundcore app, pair your AeroFit 2 earbuds via Bluetooth, and choose between Face-to-Face or Real-Time Translation mode. Within minutes, you're ready to communicate across languages with ease.

Whether for work or travel, the Soundcore AeroFit 2 delivers the future of communication in a sleek, comfortable package.



Synology DP7200

Data Protection Appliance

THE SYNOLOGY DP7200 is the latest innovation in enterprise-grade data protection, engineered to simplify and strengthen the way businesses manage their growing and distributed workloads. Designed as both a core management server and a standalone backup appliance, the DP7200 runs on the integrated ActiveProtect Manager operating system and is equipped with 84TB of storage capacity—ample space to support high-volume backup demands.

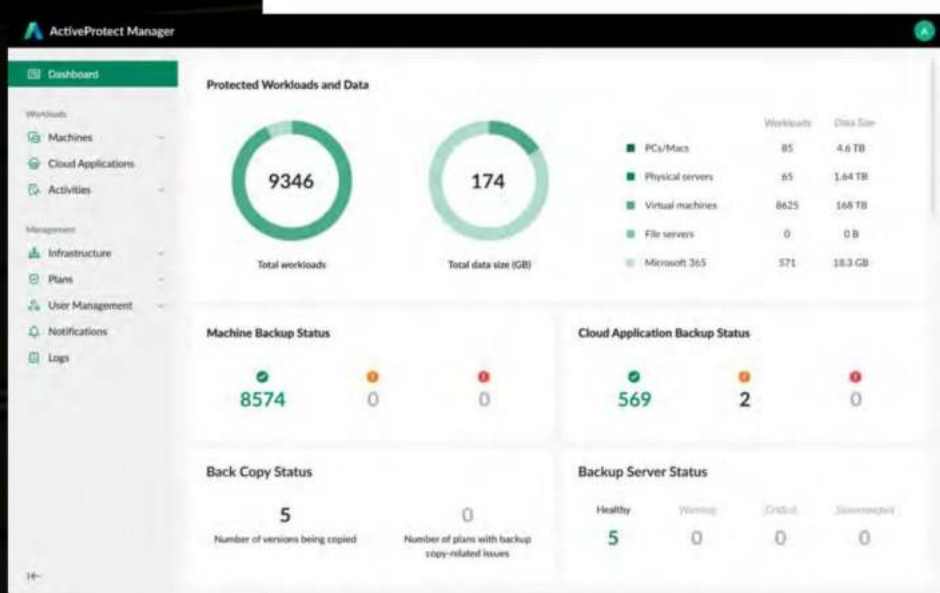


With the ability to monitor up to 150,000 workloads and oversee 2,500 sites from a centralized dashboard, the DP7200 delivers complete visibility over your data protection landscape. This makes it ideal for organizations managing complex environments across multiple branches, remote offices, or data centers.

Security is built into the foundation of the DP7200. Access controls, data isolation, and immutability features work in tandem to safeguard against ransomware threats and unauthorized access. Integration with identity management protocols such as Active Directory, LDAP, and SAML 2.0 allows administrators to enforce multi-factor authentication policies, keeping backup environments protected at all times. Even in the event of a breach, the system ensures clean backup copies are preserved and available for immediate recovery.

Long-term retention is made more efficient through advanced data deduplication, which reduces storage waste and optimizes backup storage for both on-premises and cloud-based deployments. The result is a scalable solution that supports compliance and continuity while minimizing physical storage demands.

Available globally via Synology's partner network, the DP7200 sets a new standard for enterprise data protection—consolidated, secure, and built for scale.



Experience immersive all-day gaming with the wallet-friendly vivo Y29!

Words by **Chris Noel Hidalgo**

Looking for a gaming phone that won't break the bank? The vivo Y29 should be high on your radar with its respectable specs coupled with an unbeatable price tag. From a long-lasting battery life to immersive booming audio, vivo's latest value-for-money device is made squarely for fun. Curious to know more? Here are the top five reasons why the vivo Y29 stands out as the ultimate budget-friendly gaming companion.

1. BEYOND ALL-DAY LIFE WITH ITS 6500MAH BLUEVOLT BATTERY

The vivo Y29's pièce de résistance is its massive 6500mAh BlueVolt battery which ensures you can play your favorite MOBAs, shooters, and other titles for hours on end, and without needing to hunt for a power plug every few rounds. BlueVolt is not just vivo's fancy name for this humongous battery; rather, this technology also ensures years-long battery health. You can be confident that you're getting your money's worth in terms of the Y29's lifetime.

In terms of daily use, the vivo Y29 is a definite marathoner. In the PC Mark Work 3.0 Battery Life test which took the phone from 100% to 20% using various looping tasks, the Y29 lasted for a whopping 23 hours and 46 minutes at 50% brightness and with 400% Audio Booster mode enabled. That is a lot of juice. You'll be running on fumes long before the vivo Y29 hits red.





2. IMMERSIVE AUDIO WITH DUAL STEREO SPEAKERS WITH UP TO 400% AUDIO BOOSTER

Clear and loud audio is important for getting a competitive edge in multiplayer games, especially in those where sound cues could be the difference between a chicken dinner and second place. The vivo Y29 sports dual stereo speakers with a 400% Audio Booster for this purpose and beyond. This booming audio system not only gives you better aural and spatial awareness in shooters and battle royales, it also enables you to immerse yourself in in-game music tracks when you're exploring virtual worlds—all this even without headphones. Better yet, the Ultra Game Mode sidebar provides additional fine tweaking for in-game audio to make your gaming sessions sound even better.

3. LESS DOWNTIME WITH THE BUNDLED 44W VIVO FLASHCHARGER

On the relatively infrequent occasions where you'd have to charge the vivo Y29, you can use the bundled 44W vivo Type-C FlashCharger to refuel. It takes the phone from completely dead to 20% in just 15 minutes, enabling you to top the phone off right before you head out. Meanwhile, the vivo Y29 is able to go from completely dead to full in just over 1 hour and 20 minutes. Whether you are a casual gamer or a heavy user, this rapid-charge solution ensures you spend more time playing and less time waiting.



4. ALL-AROUND PROTECTION WITH MILITARY-GRADE CERTIFICATION



Sometimes, you just end up aboard the downrank train for multiple stops no matter how hard you try. When you're in those tryhard moments and you want to let off some steam, your smartphone is as good a thing as any to take your frustration out off. Or sometimes, you've been gaming for hours on end that your palm starts to sweat, making your grip on the phone slippery. To survive such cases of everyday wear

and tear, the vivo Y29 comes with various safeguards. First, it is IP64 dust- and water-resistant so you can game without worrying about junk food powder or drink splashes. Second, it has SGS Five-Star Drop Resistance & Military Grade Certification, ensuring it can stand up to accidental slips or tumbles. Finally, you get a flexible, shock-absorbing TPU case out of the box for added peace of mind.

5. PROCESSOR, RAM, AND STORAGE COMBO THAT CAN HANDLE POPULAR TITLES

Under the hood, the vivo Y29 is powered by a power-efficient Qualcomm Snapdragon 685 octa-core chipset, delivering up to 2.8GHz clock speeds. Paired with 16GB of extended RAM, multitasking between chat apps, game dashboards, and streaming services is smooth. 128GB or 256GB internal storage variants come standard. Should you require additional storage, the vivo Y29 comes with a microSD slot which supports up to 2TB cards for everything you could ever want access to—screenshots, game recordings, offline multimedia, and more. Demanding titles like *Diablo Immortal* and *NBA 2K Mobile* run smoothly as long as you go easy on the graphics settings. Meanwhile, multiplayer games such as *Mobile Legends: Bang Bang* and *Call of Duty: Mobile* run without a hitch even when graphics are maxed out.



6. BONUS REASON: A PRICE THAT IS HARD TO BEAT

Bringing all these features together at an affordable price point, the vivo Y29 is a no-brainer for anyone wanting casual gaming prowess on a budget. The 8GB + 128GB trim goes for just PHP 8,999, while the 8GB + 256GB model sells for just PHP 10,999. In a crowded segment, the vivo Y29 is able to stand out with a marathon-worthy battery life, booming audio, quick charging, rugged build, and reliable performance—all without emptying your wallet.

Get it now in vivo concept stores, kiosks, authorized retailers, or [e-store](#).



REVIEWED BY GABRIEL JOHN PE

ASUS VIVOBOK S16 (S3607C)

LAPTOP



The ASUS Vivobook line has consistently offered excellent value, providing some of the most cost-effective laptops on the market. These devices strike a great balance of features, performance, and an accessible price point. Additionally, many models boast an attractive design. The [ASUS Vivobook S16 \(S3607C\)](#) is one of the newest laptops in the Vivobook lineup, featuring a second-generation Intel Core Ultra processor, AI capabilities, and a long-lasting battery.



DESIGN



The unboxing experience is typical of ASUS laptops, with eco-friendly packaging. Inside, you'll find some paperwork, a 65W USB-C charger, and the laptop itself. ASUS also includes an ASUS backpack with purchases of the Vivobook S16 and other Vivobook models.

The ASUS Vivobook S16 (S3607C) sports a matte gray finish and a metallic body. The metallic chassis contributes to a premium and solid build quality. Unlike some other Vivobooks, the S16 has a

more minimalist aesthetic, with only a subtle "ASUS Vivobook" logo on the cover.

Upon opening the laptop, you're greeted by a 16-inch, 1920 x 1200 WUXGA IPS display with a 144 Hz refresh rate and anti-glare properties. While not an OLED or particularly vibrant IPS panel, it features a 16:10 aspect ratio, common in ASUS laptops, allowing for more on-screen content for productivity. An IR camera with a physical shutter is located at the top of the display.

ASUS has managed to incorporate a full-sized keyboard with a small number pad. The generously sized keys make

for a comfortable typing experience, and while it's not a mechanical keyboard, the chiclet-style keys are quite pleasant to type on. Below the keyboard is a large touchpad that incorporates ASUS' gesture shortcuts. I found it to be fast and accurate, so much so that I rarely used a mouse during my review.

The Vivobook S16 (S3607C) is also well-equipped with I/O ports. On the right side, there's a USB 3.2 Type-A Gen 1 port and LED notification lights. The left side features two USB-C 3.2 Gen 1 ports with Displayport 1.2 and PowerDelivery 3.0, a full-sized HDMI 1.4 port, another USB 3.2 Type-A Gen 1 port, and an audio mic combo port.

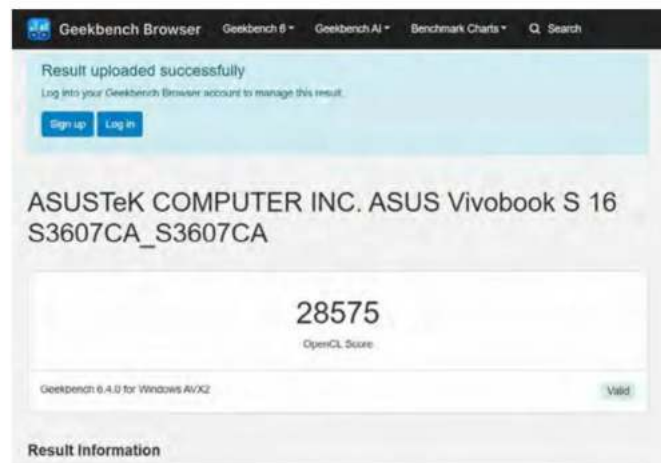
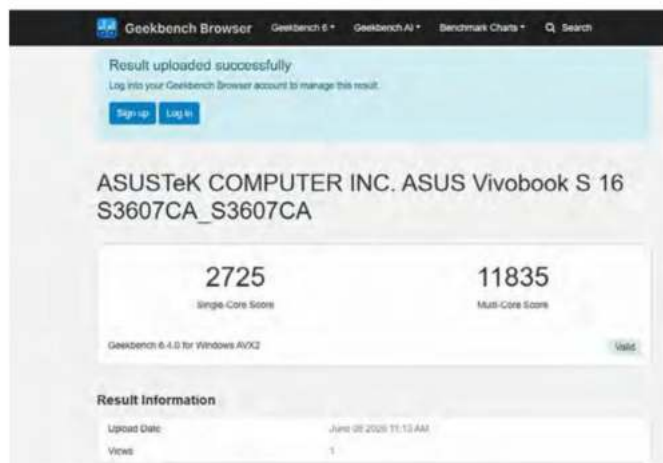
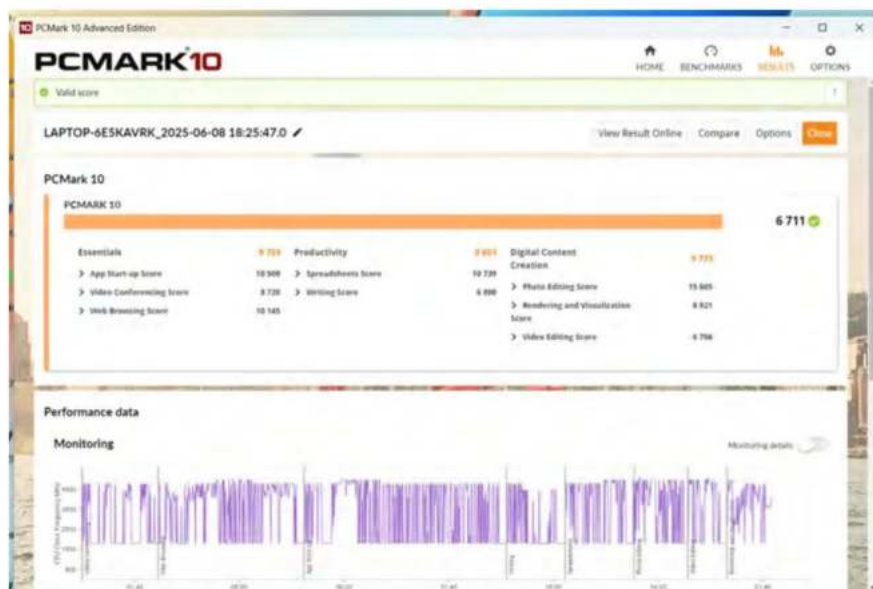


HARDWARE



Our ASUS Vivobook S16 (S3607C) is powered by the latest 2nd-generation Intel Core Ultra 7 processor with integrated Intel Arc Graphics. Specifically, our unit's Intel Core Ultra 7 255H has 10 efficiency cores and 6 performance cores, making the processor both powerful and efficient. Beyond the power and efficiency cores, the processor includes a built-in NPU capable of up to 13 TOPS. The ASUS Vivobook S16 also comes with a substantial 16GB of DDR5 RAM and a 1TB NVMe PCIe 4.0 SSD.

Here are some benchmarks for the laptop.



A significant highlight of the ASUS Vivobook S16 is its large 70Whr battery. ASUS' internal testing suggests approximately 20 hours of battery life on a full charge. In practical use, it comfortably lasts a full day of work, which is impressive for a laptop of this size. Charging time is also quite reasonable, going from 10% to 60% in just under an hour and achieving a full charge in under two hours.

USER EXPERIENCE



The ASUS Vivobook S16 (S3607C) is part of ASUS' newest Vivobook S AI laptop lineup. AI is central to this laptop, enhancing both productivity and performance. Beyond the dedicated

Copilot key on the keyboard, ASUS has integrated other AI-enhanced features, such as the AI-enhanced IR webcam.

The Copilot integration is seamless, with instant access via its dedicated button. Having one of the largest AI companions literally at your fingertips proved incredibly useful when I was writing another story on the laptop, providing ideas and guidance.

Several other aspects of the ASUS Vivobook S16 (S3607C) also impressed me. The speakers are excellent, producing loud audio without significant distortion at high volumes. The massive trackpad and ASUS gesture shortcuts were a joy to use, especially the shortcuts. Adjusting volume or brightness with a simple swipe at the edges of the touchpad proved much

faster than searching for the correct Fn button, though those are still available for those who prefer them.

Another notable feature is the metallic chassis combined with military-grade durability. Like most ASUS products, the Vivobook S16 has undergone rigorous military durability testing, making it highly durable and capable of withstanding typical bumps and drops during regular use.

The laptop is also remarkably portable for its size, measuring just 1.59cm thin and weighing only 1.70kg. These specifications are often not found in some 15.6-inch or even 14-inch laptops.

Additionally, the laptop includes a lifetime license for Microsoft Office and Home



2024, along with a one-year Microsoft 365 Basic subscription. You'll also benefit from ASUS' best-in-class [2-Year International Warranty](#) coverage and 1-year Accidental Damage Warranty.

VALUE



Starting at PHP65,995, the ASUS Vivobook S16 (S3607C) offers significant value for its price. While I did miss some features found in other ASUS Vivobooks, such as an OLED display, it doesn't detract from this device's overall performance. The Vivobook S16 truly shines due to its powerful yet efficient processor, all-day battery life, and integrated AI companion.

So, who is this laptop for? I envision the Vivobook S16 as an ideal device for

students seeking a powerful machine with ample AI capabilities and all-day battery life. It's also a perfect companion for the on-the-go office worker.

For those who want something a bit different, ASUS also offers the Vivobook S16 with either an AMD or Snapdragon processor. If a smaller device is preferred, there's also the Vivobook S14, a 14-inch variant.

You can find the ASUS Vivobook S16 (S3607) and other ASUS laptops at ASUS stores and retailers nationwide. Check [this link](#) to find the nearest ASUS store near you.

BOTTOMLINE

The ASUS Vivobook S16 (S3607C) is the perfect laptop and AI companion for those who want to accomplish more.



SPECIFICATIONS

Processors: Intel Core Ultra 7 Processor 255H 2.0GHz (24MB Cache, up to 5.1GHz, 16 cores, 16 Threads); Intel AI Boost NPU up to 13TOPS

Graphics: Intel Arc Graphics

Display: 16.0-inch, WUXGA (1920 x 1200) 16:10 aspect ratio, IPS-level Panel, LED Backlit, 144Hz refresh rate, 300nits, 45% NTSC color gamut, Anti-glare display, Non-touch screen, (Screen-to-body ratio: 89%)

Memory: 16GB DDR5 on board

Storage: 1TB M.2 NVMe PCIe 4.0 SSD

OS: Windows 11 Home

Battery: 70WHrs, 4S1P, 4-cell Li-ion.

Connectivity: Wi-Fi 6(802.11ax) (Dual band) 2*2 + Bluetooth 5.3 Wireless Card

I/O Ports: 2x USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-C with support for display/power delivery (data speed up to 5Gbps), 2x USB 3.2 Gen 1 Type-A (data speed up to 5Gbps), 1x HDMI 1.4, 1x 3.5mm Combo Audio Jack

Other features: FHD camera with IR function to support Windows Hello with privacy shutter,

Military Grade: US MIL-STD 810H military-grade standard

Dimensions: 35.70 x 25.06 x 1.59 -1.7 cm

Weight: 1.70kg

WHAT'S HOT

- ▶ AI enhancements
- ▶ Price
- ▶ Powerful 2nd Gen Intel Core Ultra processor
- ▶ Large 16-inch display

WHAT'S NOT

- ▶ An OLED display would have been nice

REVIEWED BY ALJHELYN PIADOR

HONOR 400 5G

SMARTPHONE



They say AI is here to stay, so why not make sure that the thing you hold for 90% of your day (yes, your phone) actually keeps up? The HONOR 400 5G gets the memo. It's not just sleek and social media-ready; it's smart, self-aware, and built to make your everyday life faster, prettier, and a whole lot easier.

Marketed as a lifestyle phone that blends intuitive AI with head-turning style, the HONOR 400 5G aims to be your digital sidekick. But does it deliver more than just good looks and buzzwords? Time to break it down.



DESIGN



The HONOR 400 5G looks like it was designed by someone who scrolls through Pinterest for fun and actually understands good taste. The satin matte back finish feels premium without being flashy, while the soft curvature and featherlight frame make it ultra-comfortable to carry whether you're heading to class, a shoot, or brunch.

Color options lean toward fashion-friendly tones that blend seamlessly with your OOTDs. With an understated polish that makes it feel more expensive than it is, this is not just a phone but a subtle accessory that integrates into your day-to-day aesthetic.

There's also a certain "future-is-now" look to it: minimalist lines, no gimmicks, just clean hardware that looks like it belongs in a 2025 tech capsule collection.

The real star is the 6.55-inch OLED display, packing 5000nits peak brightness, 460ppi sharpness, 1.07 billion colors, and a 120Hz refresh rate. Backed by AI Super-Dynamic and AI Vivid Display tech with Netflix and Amazon HDR certification, this screen makes everything look cinematic. Under intense sunlight or

during night scrolls, the visuals stay clear, contrasty, and punchy. Every swipe feels ultra-smooth, every filter pops, and every pixel feels intentional.

HARDWARE



The HONOR 400 5G is powered by the Snapdragon 7 Gen 3 processor, an efficient chip that's designed for solid multitasking and sustained performance without

overheating. Paired with up to 12GB of RAM, it handles typical workloads, such as social media, light gaming, content editing, and media streaming, with zero signs of lag.

Charging is where it really flexes. The 80W wired fast charging means you can go from 0 to 70% in just a few minutes. Add in the 6000mAh battery, and you've got a phone that doesn't panic under pressure. A full day and a half of regular use is easily within reach, even with some camera and video-heavy tasks.





The 50MP AI-assisted main camera does a commendable job in daylight and portrait shots, producing sharp images with natural tones. It's ideal for quick content creation, whether you're posting stories, documenting campus life, or updating your online shop catalog. However, the absence of a telephoto lens and the limited quality of the ultrawide cam mean some shots are best kept simple.

USER EXPERIENCE



The HONOR 400 5G doesn't just have AI, it thinks in it. This phone isn't simply smart; it's intuitive, like a digital co-pilot

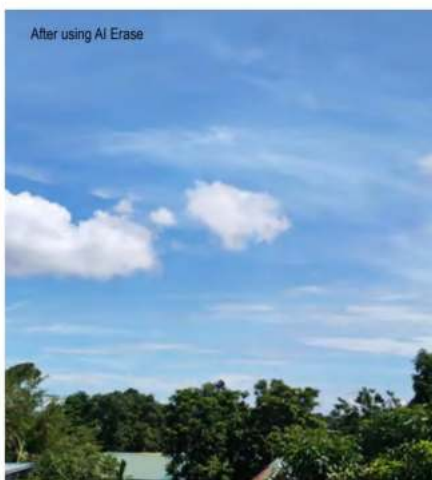
that quietly learns your habits, senses your needs, and adapts in real time. Running on MagicOS 9, based on Android 14, the interface isn't just smooth but feels like a clean slate with a mind of its own. It's polished and modern, but more importantly, it knows when to stay out of your way and when to step in. Every swipe, tap, and action flows like the phone already anticipated what you were going to do next.

One of the standout features is the **Image to Video feature**. It adds a layer of creativity that feels straight out of the future. It transforms static images into moving, story-driven clips with cinematic

panning, transitions, and even subtle facial motion. But this isn't just about making your vacation photos cuter. Think bigger: a product preview that moves as you swipe through your shop catalog, an art portfolio that animates itself like a gallery exhibit, or a simple selfie that turns into a story-ready visual without needing any editing skills. It opens the door for creators, small business owners, freelancers, and even students to elevate everyday content with just a few taps. It's like having a content team in your pocket—only faster, and way more chill.

Supporting that is a suite of AI-driven tools designed to keep pace with you. Scene recognition adjusts your camera settings on the fly. Smart background separation enhances your portraits without requiring manual masking. The Magic Capsule UI element adapts based on your actions—whether you're taking calls, ordering food, or multitasking between apps. These features don't scream for attention, but you'll notice when things just work—when your phone starts to feel less like a device and more like a quiet, capable assistant.

The HONOR 400 5G is built not just for the life you live, but for the life you're building. It's a low-maintenance creative tool that suits a wide range of lifestyles.





Whether you're a casual user or a budding entrepreneur, the experience is designed to empower, not overwhelm.

Of course, it's not without its quirks. The **AI-powered video tool** is creative and fun, but it's not magic—it still needs good input. If the photo is blurry or too dark, the results can feel off or a little awkward. Like most AI, it's smart but not psychic. Still, these are small bumps in an experience that mostly feels smooth, useful, and designed to help you do more with less effort.

VALUE



The HONOR 400 5G is not trying to be the ultimate gaming rig or a pro-grade camera phone, and that's exactly why it works. It delivers on the essentials with flair: great design, reliable performance,

smart AI integrations, and best-in-class charging speed.

Retailing for PHP22,999, it's ideal for lifestyle-forward users: students, young creatives, entrepreneurs, or anyone who needs a capable phone that won't slow them down—or mess with their aesthetic. You're paying for efficiency, ease, and a few clever tricks that make your content look like it took effort (even when it didn't).

BOTTOMLINE

The HONOR 400 5G doesn't try to overcomplicate. It's smart where it counts, stylish enough to turn heads, and capable enough to be more than just a phone. Whether you're documenting your life, building a brand, or just want something that can keep up with both your work and weekend, this midranger just might surprise you.

SPECIFICATIONS

Display: 6.7" OLED, 120Hz, 5000nits peak brightness, 1.07B colors, AI Super-Dynamic & Vivid Display

Chipset: Snapdragon 7 Gen 3

Rear Cameras: 50MP main + 12MP ultrawide/macro

Front Camera: 50MP portrait selfie

Battery: 6000mAh

Storage & RAM: Up to 512GB storage, 12GB RAM

Software: MagicOS 8.0 (Android 14)

Special Features: AI Photo-to-Video, Magic Capsule UI, HDR-certified display

WHAT'S HOT

- ▶ Bring Photos to Life feature
- ▶ Magic Capsule + Smart UI
- ▶ Stunning Display
- ▶ Fast Charging

WHAT'S NOT

- ▶ AI Video Isn't Always Accurate
- ▶ No Telephoto Lens



REVIEWED BY ALJHELYN PIADOR

REALME 14 5G

GAMING PHONE



If you're looking for a smartphone that balances casual gaming, all-day battery life, and an eye-catching design without breaking the bank, the realme 14 5G may be the right choice for you. Targeted at students, young professionals, and entry-level gamers, this device promises style, endurance, and performance. But does it deliver? We spent some time gaming, streaming, and using the realme 14 5G to find out.



DESIGN



To my eye, the realme 14 5G sports a design that definitely leans into its gaming aspirations with a cool, mecha-inspired aesthetic. The kind of look subtly broadcasts, “Yeah, I’m a gamer.”

While it adopts a straightforward slab form factor, the visual experience is a definite highlight, thanks to its vibrant 6.67-inch AMOLED display with a smooth 120Hz refresh rate and an impressive peak brightness of 2,000 nits. Whether immersed in a movie on Netflix or scrolling through your social feeds under the bright Philippine sun, the visuals are sharp and the colors pop.

The high refresh rate contributes to a fluid and responsive feel during everyday use and, of course, in fast-paced games. This stunning display elevates the overall design and user experience.

Beyond the screen, the phone feels both lightweight and comfortable in hand,

which is a definite plus for extended gaming sessions. It’s not trying to be overly flashy or premium in its build materials, instead opting for a functional design that, combined with its excellent display, resonates well with its target audience.

HARDWARE



The realme 14 5G packs a Snapdragon 6 Gen 4 chipset, a solid foundation for a mid-range gaming phone. The inclusion of a dedicated GT Mode suggests a focus on squeezing out optimal performance when you need it most. This pairing allows the phone to tackle the majority of popular mobile games without breaking a sweat.

Casual to competitive games like *Mobile Legends* run flawlessly at max settings with a consistent 60fps, giving players that buttery-smooth experience without thermal issues. Thanks to the large 6,050mm² vapor chamber cooling system, the phone stays comfortably cool even during back-to-back matches.

Now, bumping it up a notch with something more visually demanding like *Honor of Kings*, the phone still holds its ground. On high FPS and ultra-res settings, it maintains that same 60fps stability even during team fights where frame dips are often expected. This gives the realme 14 5G credibility as a phone capable of handling competitive-level gaming without significant performance drops.

But the moment you fire up a heavyweight like *Genshin Impact*, reality sets in. On its default low graphics settings at 30fps, it's playable but not impressive. Push it to 60fps on the same low settings, and you'll see fluctuations between 40–50fps, dropping further during busy combat scenes. Medium settings hover at 30–34fps — still acceptable but not exactly silky smooth. Again, the thermals are well-managed, but the performance ceiling becomes clear here: this isn't a powerhouse.

What helps a bit is the Bypass Charging feature, which is great for long gaming sessions since it powers the phone without overheating the battery. Beyond that, however, there's not much extra flair. No ultra frame boost, no aggressive AI-driven game optimizations. Just a phone doing what it's supposed to do, satisfactorily.



Benchmark scores further illustrate this point. An AnTuTu score of around 578,924 and Geekbench scores of 1,103 (single-core) and 3,088 (multi-core) are respectable for its price bracket, firmly placing it in the “good enough” category for both everyday tasks and mid-tier gaming.

Yes, the realme 14 5G can game. It handles light to moderate titles with ease and holds its own with heavier games at

conservative settings. However, If you're expecting flagship-level gameplay or pushing for max settings all the time, you'll notice the limits. Overall, it plays it safe, delivering average, steady gaming performance.

USER EXPERIENCE



The overall user experience is solid, highlighted by smooth visuals and impressive battery performance. However, the speakers need improvement. While it delivers adequate loudness for casual use, it lacks depth and clarity, especially in the bass range. A more robust sound system would have elevated the multimedia experience further.

Battery life is a definite strong suit. The massive 6,000mAh cell easily powers through a full day of heavy use, often with charge to spare. The support for 45W fast charging ensures quick top-ups. This battery-focused approach makes the device a reliable companion for gamers and heavy users.

The camera system, though functional, feels bland. It captures decent photos with acceptable detail and color balance in well-lit conditions, making it suitable for everyday social sharing. However, quality



realme 14 5G
58mm 121.8 1/150s ISO200



realme 14 5G
27mm 121.8 1/30s ISO200





dips when zooming or shooting in low light, with noticeable noise and softness.

VALUE



At PHP17,999, the realme 14 5G sits at the higher end of the mid-range category, and for users focused purely on performance, that price might feel steep.

That said, the realme 14 5G makes a strong case with its overall package. You're getting a sharp AMOLED display with 120Hz refresh rate, high brightness for outdoor use, and a reliable 6,000mAh battery with fast charging. These features contribute to a user experience that's smooth, dependable, and well-suited for both entertainment and daily tasks.

Considering its target market, students, young professionals, and casual and aspiring gamers, the phone checks key boxes: solid gaming for most titles, an all-day battery, and a display that stands out for media consumption and social use. It may not offer the highest specs per peso, but it delivers where it counts for its audience.

BOTTOMLINE

The realme 14 5G is a dependable workhorse for everyday use and casual gaming. It stays true to its strengths: vibrant visuals, reliable battery life, and smooth performance for mid-range gaming. It's not flashy or over-engineered, it just gets the job done. And for its target audience, that's more than enough.



SPECIFICATIONS

Processor: Qualcomm Snapdragon 6 Gen 4 5G

RAM: 12GB (Up to 14GB Dynamic RAM)

Storage: 256GB (Expandable via microSD)

Display: 6.67" AMOLED, 120Hz Refresh Rate, 2400x1080 (FHD+), 2000 nits (Peak)

Battery: 6000mAh, 45W SuperVOOC Fast Charging

Main Camera: 50MP AI Camera

WHAT'S HOT

- ▶ Smooth gaming on most titles
- ▶ Effective cooling
- ▶ Stunning and fluid 120Hz AMOLED display.
- ▶ Exceptional, all-day battery life

WHAT'S NOT

- ▶ Average audio quality
- ▶ Lacks advanced gaming enhancements





WORDS BY GIAN DEREK BAMBICO

KIA CARNIVAL 2.2 SX DIESEL AT

We recently had the chance to test the Kia Carnival, and one thing became clear: if we were to choose a people hauler, this would be it. Blending SUV-inspired design with minivan practicality, the Carnival turns heads while pampering passengers with premium tech and comfort. With its growing presence on Manila's streets, the question is—does it have what it takes to win over Filipino families who live for road trips?

DESIGN



The Carnival is a stunner, effortlessly drawing attention with its futuristic “tiger-nose” grille, sleek vertically stacked headlights, and SUV-like stance. Its side profile strikes a balance between subtlety and strength, featuring clean lines and a distinctive silver fin accent on the C-pillar, adding a touch of flair. At the rear, a full-width LED light bar and bold vertical brake lights tie the design together seamlessly. Unlike some vans with awkward rear proportions, the Carnival's tailgate integrates smoothly, making it look more like a premium SUV than a traditional minivan—perfect



for dads who want style along with space. Short of nitpicking personal preferences, Kia nailed this design.

EQUIPMENT



Most vans prioritize function over luxury, but the Carnival shatters expectations with first-class amenities. The second-row captain's chairs are a highlight, featuring power-adjustable ottomans, reclining, and sliding functions—perfect for VIP passengers. Families will appreciate the USB-C ports, privacy shades, and dual sunroofs, ensuring comfort on long drives.

For the driver, the Carnival feels like a tech showcase: a 12.3-inch touchscreen with wireless Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, a digital gauge cluster, and an intuitive climate control system. The wireless charger and ample USB-C ports keep everyone connected.

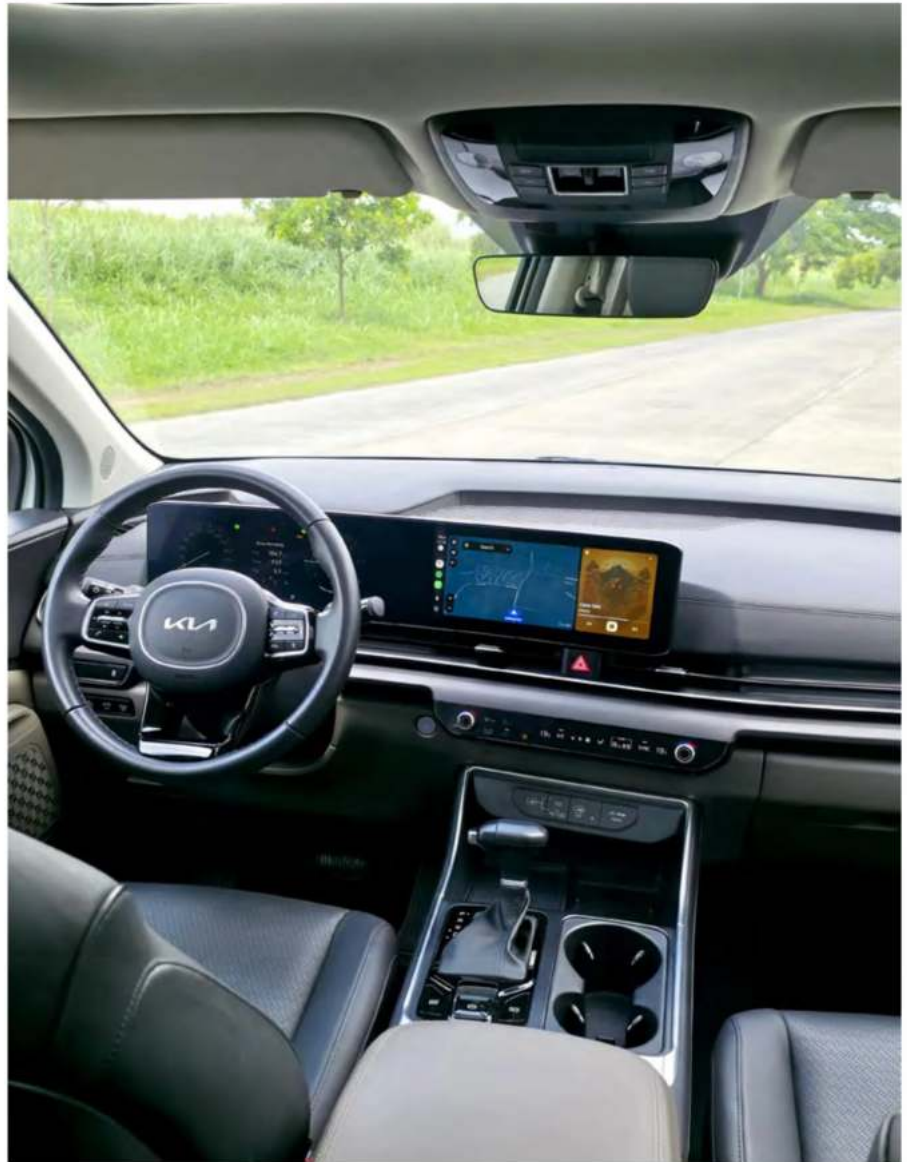
Safety is equally impressive, with 360-degree cameras, adaptive cruise control, blind-spot monitoring, lane-keeping assist, and ISOFIX child seat anchors. From collision avoidance to comfort-driven tech, the Carnival leaves little to be desired, though a rear-seat entertainment system would've been the cherry on top.

USER EXPERIENCE



If you're riding in the second row, you're in for a treat—executive-level comfort with moonroof views, plush seating, and stretch-out legroom. The "Premium Relaxation Seats" elevate the passenger experience with built-in leg rests and full recline. The cabin also benefits from triple-zone automatic climate control, keeping everyone comfortable, regardless of seating row.

The third row is surprisingly spacious (unlike cramped SUV alternatives) and offers 60:40 split-folding flat



seats, enabling flexible cargo configurations.

However, for the driver, this nearly 5.2-meter long minivan could present a bit of a challenge. Maneuvering this long, wide minivan demands extra caution, especially in tight city streets. Thankfully, the advanced parking assist system, rear cross-traffic collision-avoidance, and 360-degree cameras help take the stress out of urban driving.

After a few days with the Carnival, one thing was clear: the second-row experience is unmatched. If Kia

offered captain's chairs in the third row (since most buyers won't max out seating), it'd be near-perfect for families prioritizing comfort over capacity.



VALUE



At PHP3.368 million, the Kia Carnival 2.2 SX Diesel AT sits in a sweet spot—more affordable than luxury rivals but packed with features that shame pricier options. The good news? Kia also offers a top-tier hybrid variant locally, addressing the demand for fuel efficiency. The bad news? It commands a hefty premium over the diesel model, which might give budget-conscious families pause.

For a market increasingly drawn to hybrids, a more aggressive price cut would make the Carnival Hybrid an unbeatable choice. Still, if you're weighing long-term savings and convenience against upfront price, the hybrid's tech, eco-friendly edge, and coding exemption could justify the splurge. Either way, the Carnival delivers rare value for a minivan this premium—it's just a matter of how badly you want that hybrid badge.



BOTTOM LINE

Filipinos' love for family road trips makes the Carnival an ideal fit. While its price may give pause, its SUV-like design, unmatched comfort, and hybrid option set it apart from generic people-movers. For those who value space, tech, and style, the Carnival isn't just a minivan—it's a statement. Now, if only my wallet agreed...



"If you're riding in the second row, you're in for a treat—executive-level comfort with moonroof views, plush seating, and stretch-out legroom. The "Premium Relaxation Seats" elevate the passenger experience with built-in leg rests and full recline."



EVs IN NATURAL DISASTERS: BANE OR BOON?

Words by **Gabriel Pe**

Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) are steadily gaining mainstream traction in the Philippines. The appeal is clear: freedom from volatile fuel prices, potential savings from perks like no number coding (until 2030), and access to free charging stations in select malls.

Yet, despite the excitement, many Filipino car buyers remain hesitant. Charging infrastructure remains a work in progress, and concerns over build quality, especially among Chinese brands, are still prevalent. More critically, there's unease about how EVs would fare during natural disasters. These are valid worries, especially when a large financial investment is involved. In this piece, we'll bust a few myths and explore how EVs really perform when disaster strikes.



Myth: EVs and Water Don't Mix

One of the most persistent misconceptions about EVs is that they're overly sensitive to water—as if a few centimeters of flooding could render them useless. It's an understandable fear. After all, we've all seen what happens when electronics get wet. And while tossing your phone in a bowl of rice might give you a shot at recovery, you obviously can't do that with a two-ton electric car.

Fortunately, the myth doesn't hold up. Like modern smartphones, most EVs are built to withstand exposure to water. EV batteries and motors are typically sealed with an IP68 rating, meaning they can handle submersion in up to 1.5 meters of water for a limited time. In real-world terms, this gives EVs more water resistance than many imagine—but don't expect to drive one through neck-deep floods. Always check your vehicle's manufacturer-rated water-wading depth to stay safe.

As for hybrids, the electric components are usually just as protected. However, because HEVs also have internal combustion engines, they still share some vulnerabilities with traditional gas-powered cars when it comes to floodwaters.

Power Outages and EV Charging: A Real Concern?

Another common concern is what happens to EVs when the power goes out. It's a fair point: without electricity, an EV becomes little more than a stylish paperweight—if you forget to charge it ahead of time.

This scenario played out during hurricanes in parts of the U.S., where widespread blackouts left EV owners scrambling for charging solutions. Some turned to generators. Others, especially those with solar-powered homes, fared much better, often better than ICE

vehicle owners who couldn't refuel due to flooded gas stations or fuel supply disruptions.

This is where plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) come in handy. These vehicles combine the benefits of EVs with the reliability of a combustion engine. When the grid fails, a PHEV can still function, using its engine to recharge its battery or directly power the drivetrain, making it an ideal compromise in disaster-prone regions.

EVs as Lifelines in a Crisis

One of the lesser-known yet incredibly valuable features of many electric vehicles (EVs) is Vehicle-to-Load

(V2L) capability. This turns the EV into a mobile power source, capable of supplying electricity to external devices and appliances. While not something you'd use every day, in times of crisis, it can be a literal lifesaver.

When power lines are down, an EV with V2L can power emergency lighting, charge communication devices, or even support small medical equipment. For remote or temporarily cut-off communities, this could make all the difference.

Some next-generation EVs also come with Vehicle-to-Grid (V2G) capability—a step beyond V2L. V2G allows the vehicle to send power



“EVs and hybrids may also be better suited than expected for disaster response in other ways. Many boast slightly higher water-wading capabilities than traditional vehicles, allowing them to reach areas that may be inaccessible to others. In rescue or relief operations, that could mean faster response times—and potentially, saved lives.”



back into the grid, supporting critical infrastructure during peak demand or outages. While this technology is still in its early stages, it offers a glimpse into a future where EVs act not just as transport, but as backup power sources for entire communities.

EVs and hybrids may also be better suited than expected for disaster response in other ways. Many boast slightly higher water-wading capabilities than traditional vehicles, allowing them to reach areas that may

be inaccessible to others. In rescue or relief operations, that could mean faster response times—and potentially, saved lives.

In conclusion, EVs and hybrids may not be the liabilities some fear during natural disasters. In fact, with the right infrastructure and awareness, they could become part of the solution. As adoption continues to rise, it's worth exploring how these vehicles can offer more than convenience—they could offer resilience.



XIAOMI YU7

**THE CHINESE TECH GIANT SETS ITS
SIGHTS ON THE SUV SEGMENT WITH A
MASTERCLASS IN DESIGN, PERFORMANCE,
AND INTELLIGENT ENGINEERING.**



With the official launch of the Xiaomi YU7, the fast-rising Chinese EV brand has firmly planted its flag in the premium SUV market. Known for pushing the boundaries of consumer electronics, Xiaomi now turns its focus to electric mobility, delivering a high-performance SUV that's as advanced as it is ambitious.

More than just an upsized follow-up to the SU7 sedan, the YU7 is a ground-up reinvention of what a luxury electric SUV can be. Drawing from its namesake—"御风而行" or "riding the wind"—the YU7 strikes a fine balance between bold design, top-tier technology, and precision-engineered comfort.

A Sculpted Statement

At first glance, the Xiaomi YU7 delivers an unmistakable presence. It borrows cues from the SU7's sleek silhouette but asserts its own identity with more muscular lines, refined proportions, and aerodynamic detailing. Measuring nearly five meters long, with a commanding 3-meter wheelbase, the YU7 embodies dynamic elegance with a low-slung, performance-oriented stance.

Xiaomi engineers spent months refining the SUV's proportions, yielding design elements rarely seen in this segment—like its 3.11-square-meter clamshell aluminum hood and aggressive, hollowed-out headlight clusters with active air channels. A signature halo taillight, paired with ultra-red LEDs, adds visual drama and premium nighttime visibility.

Paint options like Emerald Green, inspired by Colombian gemstones, and the shimmering Titanium Silver emphasize Xiaomi's flair for material innovation. The detailing—down to aluminum flake placement and pearl-metallic layering—speaks to the brand's obsessive attention to aesthetics.

Engineering for Elegance and Efficiency

Beyond its looks, the YU7 is a masterclass in aerodynamics. Xiaomi integrated 40+ airflow optimization zones across the body, including ten through-flow ducts and a dynamic front grille with 100 independently actuated louvers. The result? A drag coefficient of just 0.245Cd, which is best-in-class among similarly sized SUVs and good for an extra 59km of range.

Inside, Xiaomi's "Dual-Zone Surround Luxury Cabin" redefines interior expectations. The layout feels more cockpit than cabin, led by the groundbreaking HyperVision Panoramic Display, a sweeping 1.1-meter curved projection across



the windshield that delivers key data and infotainment with retina-grade resolution and 1,200 nits peak brightness. It adapts dynamically based on context, whether navigating city streets or activating drive modes.

With soft-touch OEKO-TEX-certified materials throughout, Nappa leather upholstery, and power-adjustable rear seats, the YU7 doesn't just feel premium—it anticipates comfort at every turn. Dual zero-gravity front seats with massage functions and a panoramic glass roof round out a compelling luxury profile.

Range and Performance: No Compromise

Under the hood, figuratively speaking, the YU7 impresses with Xiaomi's self-developed HyperEngine V6s Plus dual-motor setup, delivering up to 690-horsepower and a blistering

0–100kph sprint in 3.23-seconds. Precision-engineered magnetic segmentation, continuous damper control, and a 5-level adaptive air suspension system enable a driving experience that strikes a balance between athleticism and composure.

All three variants of the YU7 (Standard, Pro, and Max) boast exceptional range, starting at 835km CLTC for the entry-level model—record-breaking for a sub-100kWh battery pack. And with Xiaomi's 800V fast-charging architecture, drivers can gain over 600km of range in just 15 minutes.

Braking and chassis performance are equally impressive. From a 100kph stop, the YU7 needs just 33.9-meters, comparable to performance coupes. A double-wishbone front and five-link rear suspension, Brembo calipers, and smart chassis dynamics ensure the SUV responds with agility and grace.



ECUs, reduced weight, and increased efficiency, the system contributes 16km of added range while simplifying the vehicle's electronic backbone.

Inside the cabin, the YU7 is driven by a Snapdragon 8 Gen 3 chip, ensuring fluid UI performance. For assisted driving, Xiaomi equips all YU7 models with the NVIDIA Drive Thor platform, delivering 700 TOPS of processing power. A comprehensive sensor suite includes LiDAR, 4D millimeter-wave radar, 11 HD cameras, and 12 ultrasonic sensors, ensuring real-time environmental awareness and precision in all driving conditions.

A Vision Realized

With the YU7, Xiaomi has done more than build an SUV. It has reimagined what it means to integrate smart tech, performance, and design into a singular automotive experience. The YU7 is bold but refined, fast yet comfortable, luxurious yet pragmatic. It's a statement of intent from a brand unafraid to challenge traditional automakers and a compelling new entry in the electric luxury space.

The official sales launch of the Xiaomi YU7 is slated for July 2025.

Built to Protect

Xiaomi didn't cut corners on safety. The YU7 incorporates an upgraded steel-aluminum hybrid body, with the industry's first mass-market application of 2200MPa ultra-high-strength steel, developed in-house through AI-optimized material science. From anti-collision beams to expansion tubes forming an internal roll cage, Xiaomi has elevated SUV safety to new heights.

The SUV also benefits from Xiaomi's Modena platform crash innovations, including a 659mm front crumple zone, reinforced battery shielding, and over 50 passive safety validations under C-NCAP and C-IASI standards.

Intelligent Inside and Out

At its core, the YU7 is powered by Xiaomi's new "Four-in-One Domain

Control Module" architecture that combines driving, cockpit, connectivity, and communication into one streamlined control hub. With fewer



MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4 2025 REFRESH



Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation (MMPC) is officially introducing the updated Mitsubishi Mirage G4, continuing its legacy as a practical, stylish, and easy-to-drive sedan that is built for everyday Filipino journeys.

Since its introduction to the Philippine market in 2013, the Mirage G4 has become one of MMPC's key models, majorly contributing to the company's yearly sales volume. With its proven reliability, it has consistently won the hearts of new car buyers. Now, with fresh updates for 2025, the Mirage G4 is ready to elevate daily drives once again, proving that a ride this practical has never looked this good.





Carrying the tagline *Everyday Made Stylish*, the updated Mirage G4 is now equipped with enhancements that will make you drive with style and confidence - whether it's for workday commutes, weekend errands, or quick road trips.

The latest Mirage G4 boasts a number of upgrades designed to enhance both style and safety. Here are what's new with the Mirage G4:

Exterior Enhancements

It is now equipped with LED Projector Headlights and Tail Lights, offering better visibility and a modern look.

A new machine finished two-tone alloy wheel design for all variants gives the Mirage G4 a sharper, sportier appearance on the road.

Safety Upgrades

Hill Start Assist (HSA) and Active Stability Control (ASC) are now standard across all variants, ensuring



added peace of mind whether on inclined roads or slippery streets.

Same Tried & Tested Performance

Under the hood, the Mirage G4 retains its trusted 1.2L MIVEC engine paired with a smooth CVT transmission (also available in MT for GLX variant). Known for its

fuel efficiency and simplicity, it remains one of the most economical options in its class, perfect for the Philippines' usual city traffic and daily drives.

Constant Functional Features

The updated Mirage G4 continues to offer features that make everyday drives more convenient:



- Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity (wired) for seamless navigation and music streaming.
- A generous 450-liter trunk space, big enough for multiple suitcases, grocery bags, or a child's stroller.
- Keyless Operation System, Remote Key with Trunk Opener, Backing-up Camera, and Automatic Climate Control — available for the top-of-the-line GLS variant.
- Dual SRS Airbags, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD) as standard safety features across all variants.

Still Proudly Filipino-Made

As one of the models being assembled locally at MMPC's plant in Santa Rosa, Laguna, the Mirage G4 continues to embody Filipino craftsmanship and resilience while delivering top-notch quality and reliable value for money.

The updated Mirage G4 is available in four exterior colors: Titanium Gray Metallic, Red Metallic, Cool Silver

Metallic, and White Solid (available via order basis)

Pricing

- Mirage G4 GLX 1.2G MT – PHP793,000
- Mirage G4 GLX 1.2G CVT – PHP841,000
- Mirage G4 GLS 1.2G CVT – PHP937,000

Drive everyday in style and confidence. The new Mitsubishi Mirage G4 is now available in all authorized Mitsubishi Motors Philippines dealerships nationwide. Go to your nearest dealership to take a closer look and to test drive.

For more information, visit www.mitsubishi-motors.com.ph or follow Mitsubishi Motors Philippines official social media pages.



NEW HYUNDAI CRETA

**HYUNDAI'S SUBCOMPACT SUV STEPS INTO 2025 WITH A BOLD
DESIGN REFRESH, SMART TECH UPGRADES, AND AN ATHLETIC
N LINE VARIANT FOR THE SPIRITED FILIPINO DRIVER.**





Since its global debut in 2014 and Philippine entry in 2022, the Hyundai Creta has quietly gained ground among young, upwardly mobile drivers who want an SUV that balances form and function. This year, Hyundai Motor Philippines Inc. (HMPH) reintroduces the Creta with a striking design upgrade, next-gen in-car tech, and—for the first time in the local market—a sport-tuned N Line variant.

This is more than a mid-cycle refresh. It's a smart reinvention for a model aimed squarely at a dynamic generation that demands style, connectivity, and performance in equal measure.

Fresh Face, Futuristic Edge

The new Creta makes an immediate impression with Hyundai's "Sensuous Sportiness" design language now more assertively expressed. A black chrome Parametric Jewel grille, crisp LED position lamps, and an evolved front fascia signal a more confident stance. Meanwhile, a redesigned rear setup integrates "H"-themed combination lamps, enhancing visibility and solidifying its unique street presence.

From the side, new alloy wheels and sequential turn indicators complete the makeover—adding dynamic character to an already eye-catching profile.

Inside: Space, Comfort, and Smarter Tech

Step into the cabin, and it's clear Hyundai's priorities extend beyond just aesthetics. A fully digital instrument cluster leads the driver interface, while the 10.25-inch high-resolution infotainment screen anchors the center console. Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, and built-in Waze come standard, ensuring seamless smartphone connectivity and real-time navigation.

Passenger comfort has also been refined. Ventilated front seats, generous legroom, and a flexible cargo space (433L expandable to 1,401L) position the Creta as a practical choice for everything from daily commutes to weekend getaways.

Safety That Thinks Ahead

Hyundai's SmartSense suite is more comprehensive than ever. It now includes Smart Cruise Control with



Stop and Go, Forward Collision Avoidance Assist, Blind Spot Collision Avoidance, Lane Following and Keeping Assist, and even a Surround View Monitor—an impressive offering at this segment level. Safety tech is no longer reserved for the top tier, and the new CRETA brings it to the fore.

Enter the N Line: A New Flavor of Performance

Hyundai's N Line trim, first seen in the PH-market ELANTRA, now extends to the CRETA. It's a head-turning addition that adds visual and performance edge to the nameplate.

Under the hood, the CRETA N Line packs a punch with a 1.5L Turbo GDI engine delivering 160PS and 253Nm of torque—mated to a 7-speed dual-clutch transmission for snappier response and a sportier ride. The exterior gets a makeover too: dual exhaust tips, 18-inch alloys, an exclusive spoiler, and N Line badging distinguish it from the rest of the lineup.

Inside, red ambient lighting, red-accented details, paddle shifters, and a performance-style steering wheel

infuse the cabin with athletic flair, delivering a more immersive driving experience.

Pricing and Variants

The 2025 Hyundai CRETA starts at PHP1,134,000 and comes in several variants:

- 1.5 GL IVT – PHP1,134,000
- 1.5 GLS IVT – PHP1,254,000
- 1.5 Premium IVT – PHP1,333,000
- 1.5T N Line 7DCT – PHP1,379,000

Color options include Creamy White Pearl, Magnetic Silver, Slate Blue Pearl, and Midnight Black, while the N Line flaunts two exclusive hues: Shadow Gray and Dragon Red.

Final Gearshift

The new Hyundai CRETA is a solid evolution of one of the brand's best-selling crossovers—more refined, tech-forward, and youth-oriented than ever before. Whether you're looking for a reliable daily driver or a sportier subcompact SUV with a bit more bite, the CRETA's latest iteration offers compelling reasons to get behind the wheel.





AITO M9

THE NEW FACE
OF TECH-FIRST LUXURY





In a world where legacy brands have long dominated the luxury car segment, a new contender has emerged—not from Europe, but from the heart of China’s cutting-edge tech ecosystem. The AITO M9, a next-generation luxury New Energy Vehicle (NEV) co-developed by Huawei and Seres Group, is redefining what it means to drive premium in the age of intelligent mobility. And now, it has landed in the Philippines.

Already a sensation in China, where it has outsold European stalwarts like BMW and Mercedes-Benz in the premium NEV segment, the AITO M9 is making waves among the world's most discerning and tech-savvy buyers. Its arrival signals a new era for Filipino drivers seeking the perfect blend of performance, intelligence, and sustainability.

Smarter Luxury, Redefined

The AITO M9 isn't just another electric SUV—it's a statement of innovation. At the heart of the

vehicle is Huawei's HarmonyOS smart cockpit system, paired with a panoramic triple-screen display, intuitive voice command features, and advanced driver assistance capabilities. The cockpit isn't just a place to drive—it's a connected command center designed to make every journey seamless, responsive, and immersive.

Engineered by a team of over 3,000 specialists, the M9 delivers more than sleek aesthetics. It offers precision engineering, range-extending battery tech, and next-gen autonomous

driving capabilities—all wrapped in a package that asks a bold question: *Why pay more for less?*

With a price point that undercuts traditional luxury rivals, the M9 delivers features that are often absent from more expensive counterparts. It's not just about prestige—it's about performance with purpose.

A Shift in Mindset

China's luxury auto consumers are among the most demanding in the world, known for prioritizing value,





technology, and forward-thinking design. The AITO M9's rapid ascent in this market reflects a broader shift—one where smart, sustainable, and connected features are no longer optional, but essential.

“Chinese buyers know what they want,” says Jona Chiang, marketing director of QSJ Motors-AITO Philippines. “Their enthusiastic response to the AITO M9 is a testament to its superiority in technology, comfort, and overall driving experience. Discerning Filipino drivers now have access to the same standard of luxury.”

The Future of Driving, Now in Manila

AITO's Philippine debut is being led by QSJ Motors, the brand's official distributor. The M9 is now available for test drives at the AITO EDSA Test Drive Center in San Juan, giving local drivers a firsthand experience of what the future of luxury mobility feels like.

More than just an eco-conscious option, the M9 represents a cultural shift—where smart luxury aligns with sustainability, connectivity, and design. It challenges traditional notions of status and performance,

ushering in a new wave of intelligent automobiles that don't just keep up—they lead.

AITO: Intelligence on Wheels

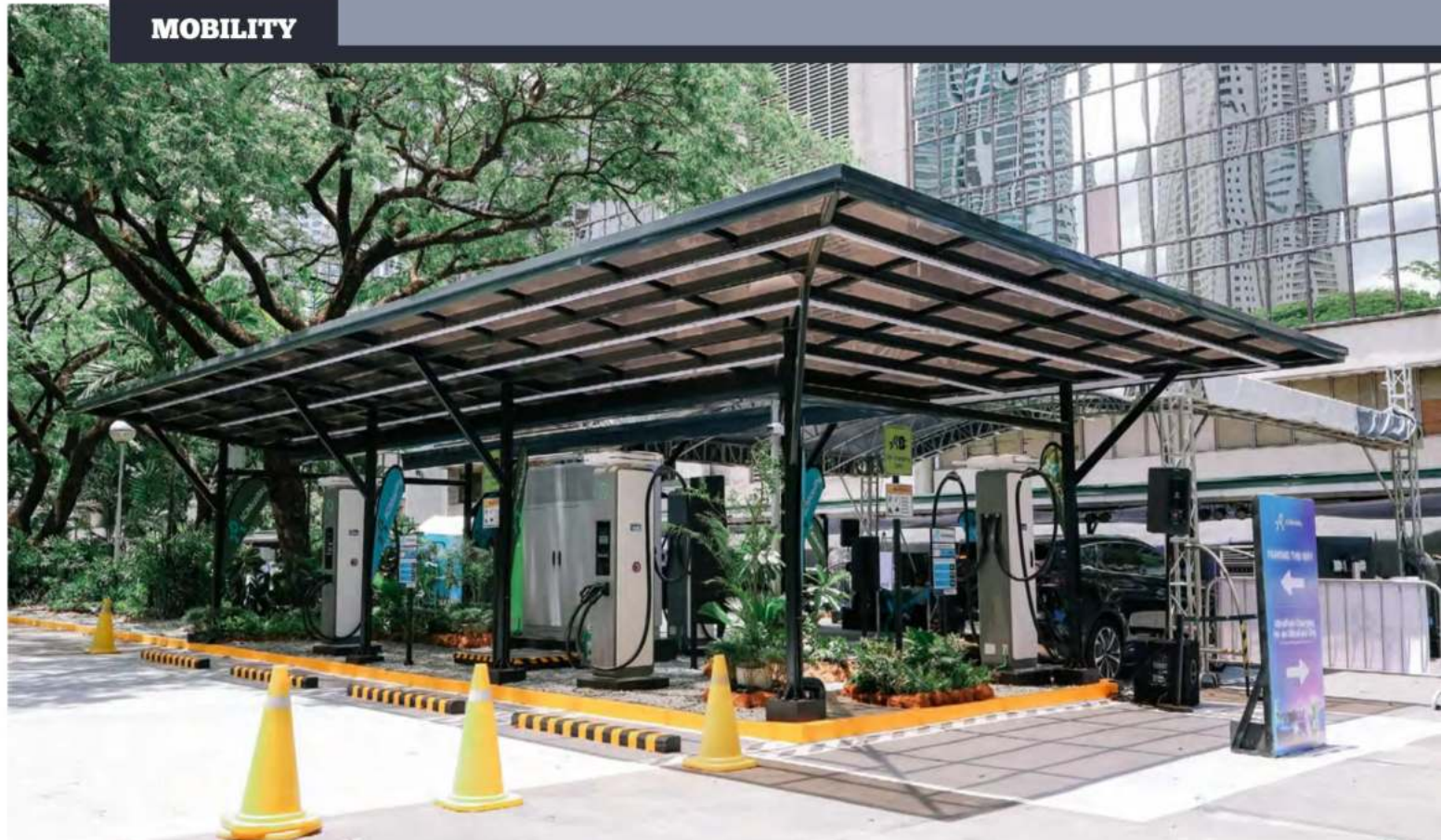
AITO—short for “Adding Intelligence to Auto”—is the product of a strategic alliance between Seres Group and Huawei. It merges high-end automotive manufacturing with Huawei's deep expertise in consumer technology and smart systems, creating vehicles that are as intuitive as they are powerful.

With global recognition now accelerating, and Bloomberg News confirming its rise in the NEV rankings, AITO is poised to become a serious force in the premium automotive landscape—not just in China, but worldwide.

Test Drive the Future

Experience the AITO M9 at the AITO EDSA Test Drive Center, Ground Floor, Primex Tower, Connecticut corner EDSA, San Juan, Metro Manila.





MAKATI GOES ULTRAFAST WITH AC MOBILITY

Makati City—already a business and lifestyle hub—is now making headlines for a different kind of power surge. With the launch of the country's fastest electric vehicle (EV) chargers, ACMobility, the Ayala Group's pioneering mobility arm, is setting a bold precedent in the race toward electrified transportation.

At the heart of this transformation is the Corinthians Carpark, now home to high-capacity 240kW SuperFast and a groundbreaking 480kW UltraFast EV charger—the most powerful in the Philippines. Designed to charge compatible EVs in just 10 to 15 minutes, these next-generation chargers are part

of a growing network that positions Makati as the most electrified city in the country.

But this is more than a technological upgrade—it's a movement.

Fast, Frictionless, Future-Ready

ACMobility's latest installation features nine DC CCS2 charging slots, equipped with dual-gun 240kW and air-cooled 1000-amp cables, which are capable of scaling to meet future demand. For larger electric vehicles (EVs) and minibuses, a dedicated pull-through slot ensures convenient access.

Tightly integrated with the Evro app, ACMobility's digital platform, the entire experience—from finding a charger to initiating sessions and paying—is contactless, secure, and seamless. The app offers real-time updates, loyalty programs, and location tracking—making it indispensable for every EV driver navigating the city.

The service is priced at PHP35 per kilowatt-hour, with membership perks offering up to 20% in savings. For high-traffic areas not yet fully equipped with permanent infrastructure, ACMobility has rolled out its Power-on-Wheels (POW) initiative: a mobile fast-charging fleet currently operating in Makati,

Taguig, and Mandaluyong, with further expansion already in motion.

Charging with a Conscience

What truly sets the Corinthians Carpark station apart is its commitment to clean energy. Every session is powered by 100% renewable energy through a partnership with ACEN Renewable Energy Solutions (ACEN RES), under the Department of Energy's Green Energy Option Program (GEOP). That means when drivers plug in, they're also plugging into solar, wind, and geothermal sources—no on-site solar panels required.

This initiative doesn't just promote cleaner air in the city—it pushes the national energy mix toward its 35% renewable target by 2030.

Makati, and Beyond

With 70 active charge points across 16 Makati locations—and a roadmap to reach 100 points by 2025—the city is now the beating heart of ACMobility's Philippine EV Spine, a national network of high-speed chargers that enable long-distance, inter-city electric travel.

As of May 2025, ACMobility has deployed over 90 charging locations across the country, with 30 more poised to go live by June. From shopping centers and condominiums to commercial estates and office parks, each charging site is a node in a growing web of clean, smart infrastructure.

According to Carla Buencamino, head of mobility infrastructure at



ACMobility, "Each new station—whether in a mall, office, condo, or roadside—reinforces the Philippine EV Spine, connecting communities and empowering Filipinos to drive electric, anywhere, anytime."

The Bigger Picture

ACMobility isn't just a charging provider—it's a full-stack mobility ecosystem builder. As the official Philippine distributor for Kia, Volkswagen, and BYD, and the largest dealer of Honda and Isuzu, the company is uniquely positioned to drive EV adoption from showroom to street. Through its Bosch Car Service network, ACMobility also offers

nationwide after-sales and diagnostics for traditional and electric vehicles alike.

Together with Evro, its digital interface and services backbone, ACMobility is creating a future where range anxiety, access barriers, and sustainability concerns are things of the past. Conclusion

As the Philippines moves toward a more sustainable future, ACMobility's rollout of ultra-fast chargers in Makati and beyond shows that cleaner, smarter, and more accessible mobility isn't a distant goal—it's already happening. From renewable-powered sessions to mobile charging fleets, the path forward is not only electric—it's accelerating.

What is Evro?

Evro is the digital nerve center of ACMobility's EV network. The app lets users locate and reserve charging stations, monitor session status, and process payments—all in real time. As more charge points join the network, Evro is quickly becoming the national standard for EV charging convenience.

Available on both the App Store and Google Play, Evro also provides businesses with the tools to manage and monetize EV infrastructure, encouraging wider participation in the green mobility movement.







YAMAHA MIO GRAVIS 2025

**A BOLD RIDE TOWARD SMARTER,
SAFER STREETS**

In a market where motorcycle culture is often caught between speed and style, Yamaha Motor Philippines is steering the conversation in a new direction—with the *Mio Gravis* 2025 campaign urging Filipino riders to make smarter, safer choices on the road.

Launched through a bold, unconventional event, the campaign reframes riding not just as a form of mobility or self-expression, but as a personal responsibility. With the Mio Gravis as its flagship, Yamaha aims to inspire a new generation of riders to ride with purpose, not recklessness.

Ridecast: A Journey of Reflection

The campaign kicked off with *Ridecast by Yamaha*—a mobile podcast-turned-road trip featuring hosts Mikee Reyes and Kiko Matos aboard their Mio Gravis units. While cruising toward SM Megamall, the duo delved into real-life road scenarios: motorcycle mishaps, etiquette fails, and the everyday dilemmas of navigating Philippine traffic.

But this wasn't just entertainment on wheels. The Ridecast served as a rolling commentary on what it means to be a responsible rider today. With the *Mio Gravis* as their ride of choice, Mikee and Kiko embodied a shift in mindset—one supported by the scooter's smart features designed to make road safety both practical and personal.

Reclaiming "Kamote" Culture—with a Twist

Upon reaching their destination, the campaign took an unexpected turn. Instead of a traditional stage or product showcase, the audience was met with a



giant oven and a full-blown live cooking demo led by social media chef *Ninong Ry*.

It was a cheeky yet pointed reimagining of the derogatory term *kamote*—a word often hurled at reckless, irresponsible motorists. Through food, Yamaha flipped the script. The message: even a symbol of poor riding habits can be transformed into something better. *Kamote*, once an insult, was now a dish worth savoring—just as undisciplined riding can evolve into mindful mobility.

A Scooter That Embodies the Message

While the stunts and storytelling captured attention, the heart of the campaign is the *Mio Gravis* itself. Built with features designed to support mature and mindful riders, the scooter blends everyday practicality with next-level confidence. It's more than a vehicle—it's a choice that reflects a rider's values.

From intuitive controls to efficient performance, the *Mio Gravis* is positioned as a tool for change. It invites its users to go beyond convenience and style and instead embrace a ride that respects the road, fellow motorists, and the greater community.

Yamaha's Vision: Ride with Purpose

Yamaha's 2025 push for the *Mio Gravis* is more than a product campaign—it's a cultural reset. By blending humor, storytelling, and social relevance, Yamaha is leading a movement that encourages Filipino riders to reject recklessness and embrace responsibility.

It's a call to all riders—young or seasoned, casual or hardcore—to shift gears not just in their vehicles, but in their mindset.

Because in Yamaha's eyes, the most powerful ride isn't the fastest. It's the one taken with intention.



PETRON SUPER COOLANT

SMARTER ENGINE PROTECTION IN TROPICAL CONDITIONS

Petron Corporation, the country's leading oil refining and marketing company, has officially launched PETRON SUPER COOLANT, a high-performance ready-to-use engine coolant developed specifically for the demanding conditions of Philippine roads. With advanced heat protection, anti-rust technology, and deposit-prevention features, Petron Super Coolant delivers superior engine care for both cars and motorcycles.



In a tropical country where extreme heat, humidity, and stop-and-go traffic are part of everyday driving, engines are constantly at risk of overheating and internal damage. Petron Super Coolant offers a solution tailored to these local realities.

Many motorists still use tap water in their radiators, not realizing that tap water alone can boil, evaporate, cause rust, and leave behind mineral deposits that harm the engine over time. Petron Super Coolant goes beyond just cooling. It protects the entire system, ensuring efficient operation and longer engine life.

Core Benefits for Everyday Driving

Petron Super Coolant is formulated with three core benefits for everyday driving. Whether you're stuck in urban traffic or taking long drives in high temperatures, this coolant provides peace of mind on the road.

Advanced Heat Dissipation. Engines generate extreme heat, especially in traffic-heavy areas or during long drives. Petron Super Coolant maintains optimal operating temperatures, helping prevent overheating in summer or engine stress in high-performance use. This stable thermal control ensures consistent engine performance even in tough conditions.

Anti-Rust and Corrosion Shield. Over time, tap water in the radiator can lead to corrosion, which destroys engine components and leads to costly repairs. Petron Super Coolant is formulated with corrosion inhibitors that coat internal metal surfaces, preventing corrosion. This extends the life of your radiator, water pump, and other cooling system parts.

Prevents Deposit and Scale Build-Up. Minerals in tap water can form scales and residue inside the engine's cooling channels, clogging passages and reducing



the cooling efficiency. Petron Super Coolant keeps your cooling system clean by preventing these deposits from forming. The result is better heat transfer and smoother engine operation.

Versatile One-Product Solution Regardless of Color

Designed for versatility, Petron Super Coolant is suitable for both automotive and motorcycle engines, providing a one-solution coolant for Filipino motorists with multiple vehicle types. Unlike some coolants that differ by color, Petron Super Coolant offers a single, consistent, high-quality formula. Whether it's green or red, users are guaranteed the same premium protection with every bottle—simplifying purchases and preventing compatibility confusion.

Tips for Proper Use

To maximize performance and protection, Petron recommends the following:

- Regularly check coolant levels and top up when low.
- Flush and replace coolant every 10,000 to 20,000 kilometers for best results.
- Avoid mixing different coolant brands or types to maintain chemical stability and effectiveness.

Built on Petron's Proven Expertise

Backed by decades of technical expertise, extensive product testing, and a reputation built on fuel and lubricant innovation, Petron Super Coolant has been formulated to meet the needs of Filipino motorists as well as match global standards.

The launch of Petron Super Coolant reflects the company's Tapat Sa'yo promise to remain true, dependable, and responsive to Filipino drivers' needs. More than just a slogan, Tapat Sa'yo is a brand philosophy centered on honest value, consistent quality, and a deep understanding of local driving conditions.

Petron Super Coolant is more than just engine protection—it's an expression of our commitment to empower every Filipino motorist with smart, reliable solutions that keep them safe and confident on the road.

Availability

Petron Super Coolant is ready-to-use and is now available at Petron Car Care Centers, service stations, and retail outlets nationwide.

ASEAN+ Leads the World in Hybrid and AI Adoption

New research from Lenovo reveals that Southeast Asia is setting the pace for enterprise transformation, with 68% of enterprises adopting hybrid infrastructure and rapidly accelerating AI investment

At the 2025 Lenovo Tech Day, a new study reshaped the narrative on enterprise transformation across the Asia Pacific. ASEAN+ markets, including the Philippines, are now outpacing global averages in hybrid infrastructure adoption—with 68% of organizations embracing on-prem and hybrid environments to power their next-generation AI workloads. But more than infrastructure, Lenovo's data signals a deeper, strategic shift: Southeast Asia is no longer trailing the global innovation curve—it's helping redraw it.

ASEAN+ Steps Into the AI Fast Lane

Based on a global survey of over 2,900 IT and business leaders across 12 Asia Pacific markets, the *Lenovo CIO Playbook 2025: It's Time for AI-nomics*—developed with IDC—reveals a dramatic surge in enterprise AI investment. In

ASEAN+, AI spending has grown 2.7x year-over-year, with the Philippines emerging as one of the region's rising stars in digital transformation.

From government-backed initiatives like the *National AI Roadmap* to plans for a *National Center for AI Research*, the Philippines is doubling down on innovation ecosystems that support AI across sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, agriculture, and BPO. Lenovo's long-standing commitment to "Smarter Technology for All" aligns well

with this vision—its full-stack portfolio spans AI-ready devices, infrastructure, and services tailored for local realities.

“We are helping build a strong foundation for long-term growth, improved competitiveness, and inclusive participation in the AI-driven economy,” said Michael Ngan, president and GM of Lenovo Philippines.

GRC Tops the CIO Agenda, But Gaps Remain

Despite these gains, the path to scalable AI is far from smooth. Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) now ranks as the number one priority for CIOs in Asia Pacific. Yet only a quarter of ASEAN+ organizations have fully implemented AI governance frameworks—a disconnect that underscores the growing need for explainability, ethical alignment, and human oversight.

As AI moves from pilot to production, return on investment (ROI) remains the biggest hurdle. While 47% of ASEAN+ firms are evaluating or planning implementation in the next 12 months, expectations are high: companies project an average 3.6x return from AI investments.

According to Lenovo, delivering on that promise requires an approach that balances experimentation with scalability. Services like Lenovo AI Fast Start help de-risk this process, enabling businesses to pilot and optimize AI projects with expert guidance.

GenAI and AI PCs on the Rise

Generative AI is commanding a growing share of enterprise budgets—42% of AI spend in ASEAN+ by 2025, according to the report. While customer service leads implementation in the region, IT operations and R&D follow closely. Meanwhile, AI-powered PCs are beginning to show real-world productivity gains, with 43% of early adopters across AP reporting measurable benefits.

In ASEAN+, 65% of organizations are already planning to roll out AI PC solutions, signaling the early stages of workplace transformation.

Hybrid Is the New Default

The study also confirms that hybrid architecture is now the dominant model across Asia Pacific. 65% of AP firms—and an even greater 68% in ASEAN+—prefer on-prem or hybrid over public cloud, citing performance, data security, and flexibility.

“Hybrid architectures offer the best of both worlds—scalability and control,” said Kumar Mitra, executive director, Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions Group for CAP & ANZ. “ASEAN+ is setting the pace with higher adoption, which reflects a maturity in aligning innovation with compliance.”

Partnerships Fill the Talent Gap

As AI complexity grows, partnerships are becoming crucial. In ASEAN+,

44% of CIOs are already working with AI service providers, and another 56% plan to follow suit. These collaborations are helping companies overcome talent shortages, enhance data management, and accelerate outcomes through expert deployment strategies.

“AI is not just about quick wins. Success lies in integration, governance, and long-term value,” added Debdut Maiti, director of Lenovo’s Solutions & Services Group, Greater AP.

Conclusion: The ASEAN+ Inflection Point

What Lenovo’s Tech Day 2025 makes clear is that ASEAN+ is no longer catching up—it’s setting the pace. With focused AI investment, maturing digital infrastructure, and a hybrid-first mindset, the region is carving out a leadership position in the next era of enterprise technology.

And for the Philippines, the momentum is just beginning.



(L-R): Kumar Mitra, Michael Ngan, and Debdut Maiti

GEN Z'S STREAMING HABITS UNDER ATTACK

Kaspersky reveals how cybercriminals are targeting anime, blockbusters, and streaming platforms to exploit young viewers online.



In a world where fandom meets digital fluency, Gen Z's favorite content—anime, streaming platforms, and blockbuster franchises—has become more than entertainment. It's identity. But according to new research from global cybersecurity firm Kaspersky, it's also becoming bait.

Between Q2 2024 and Q1 2025, Kaspersky detected more than **250,000 cyberattacks disguised as popular anime** alone, with titles like *Naruto*, *Demon Slayer*, and *Attack on Titan* leading the hit list. These aren't random phishing attempts—they're highly targeted attacks crafted to blend into the streaming habits and fandoms that define a generation.

From Anime to Malware

Anime is more than a pop culture phenomenon—it's a digital magnet. Over 65% of Gen Z regularly watch anime, making them the most engaged generation in the genre's history. That deep emotional investment makes them highly susceptible to socially engineered threats.

Kaspersky's threat researchers uncovered **251,931 malware or unwanted file attempts** disguised under the names of five major anime titles. Topping the list: *Naruto*, with over 114,000 detected attempts, followed by *Demon Slayer* (44,200) and *Attack on Titan* (39,433). The lures? Clickable promises of "exclusive leaks," "premium episodes," and "unreleased content"—all designed to prey on curiosity and fandom culture.

The Rise of Fake Blockbusters

But it's not just anime that's being weaponized. Nostalgic franchises and current hits like *Shrek*, *Twilight*, *Stranger Things*, *Inside Out 2*, and *Deadpool & Wolverine* were linked to **43,302 attack attempts**. The biggest spike came from *Shrek* in March 2025—more than doubling the monthly average for all of 2024.

This reflects a wider trend where cybercriminals time attacks around media releases and online hype cycles, exploiting emotional resonance and digital momentum.

The Streaming Trap

Streaming platforms themselves are being impersonated at alarming rates. Kaspersky logged **96,288 attempts** to distribute malicious files disguised under popular services like Netflix, Prime Video, Disney+, and HBO Max. Netflix alone was linked to **85,679 attack attempts** and a staggering **2.8 million phishing pages** mimicking its interface.

Fake “free trial” offers, spoofed login screens, and phishing emails with authentic-looking branding are just a few of the tactics used to catch viewers off-guard. The ever-on nature of streaming and the familiarity of these platforms make them easy entry points for threat actors.

Staying Safe in a Hyperconnected World

To help younger users protect themselves, Kaspersky recommends a few simple but essential steps:

- **Stick to official streaming sites and apps**, and never trust pirated or “early access” downloads.
- **Beware of suspicious file types**—video files should not end in .exe or .msi.
- **Utilize reputable cybersecurity software**, such as Kaspersky Premium, and a VPN to safeguard against phishing, spyware, and data leaks.

Gamifying Cyber Awareness

In response, Kaspersky has launched **Case 404**, an interactive online game created specifically for Gen Z. The experience casts users as cyber-detectives navigating immersive storylines based on real-world threats. The goal: not just to warn, but to teach. Players who complete the game also earn a discount on Kaspersky Premium, encouraging real-world protection through engaging digital storytelling.

“This isn’t just about fake downloads or shady links,” says Vasily Kolesnikov, Kaspersky security expert. “It’s about how deeply cybercriminals understand digital culture—and how they weaponize it. From anime fandoms to the latest Hollywood releases, they know what Gen Z loves and exploit that trust.”

The Takeaway

Gen Z’s connection to content is emotional, immersive—and increasingly targeted. As digital life and entertainment continue to blur, cybersecurity must go beyond the technical. It has to speak the language of the users it aims to protect.

Kaspersky’s findings and its gamified approach to awareness reflect a new kind of cybersecurity—one that understands culture as much as code.

FILIPINO LEARNERS EMBRACE THE AI REVOLUTION, BUT GAPS REMAIN

Coursera's 2025 Global Skills Report reveals a digital-savvy population racing to upskill, as the Philippines ranks 88th worldwide

In a world increasingly defined by artificial intelligence and rapid technological transformation, the Philippines is stepping forward with a digitally engaged, ambitious learning community. According to the **Coursera Global Skills Report 2025**, Filipino learners are adopting emerging technologies at an unprecedented pace, particularly Generative AI (GenAI), but challenges remain in translating that momentum into broad-based, inclusive progress.

Drawing from over 170 million learners across 100+ countries, Coursera's latest findings place the Philippines 88th globally and 18th in Asia Pacific in overall skills proficiency. And while traditional rankings in business, technology, and data science remain in the early development stages—at 29%, 21%, and 17% proficiency respectively—the country's advancement in artificial intelligence is creating new avenues of promise.

For the first time, Coursera introduced its AI Maturity Index, a composite metric that assesses a nation's readiness in AI learning, innovation, and research. The Philippines placed 60th globally, signaling solid momentum in building an AI-capable workforce despite infrastructure and accessibility gaps. This position, while mid-tier, highlights the country's growing potential in AI adoption and education.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the country's dramatic 383% year-over-year increase in GenAI course enrollments—more than doubling the global average and easily outpacing its Asia Pacific neighbors. Filipino learners aren't just watching the AI wave—they're preparing to ride it.

A Workforce in Transition



The report finds that 86% of Filipino knowledge workers already use AI at work, exceeding global and regional averages. Courses related to machine learning, digital marketing, and IT infrastructure are seeing rapid growth, driven by both professional ambition and economic necessity. Enrollments in Professional Certificates—job-aligned programs that offer recognized credentials—are also up by 23% year-on-year, reinforcing the demand for practical, outcome-driven learning.

“The Philippines is laying the foundation for a digitally confident workforce,” said Eklavya Bhawe, head of Asia Pacific at Coursera. “AI is a clear priority for employers, and learners are stepping up by acquiring GenAI skills and industry micro-credentials to stay ahead.”

This shift isn't limited to technical skills. Enrollments in courses focused on Curiosity, Critical Thinking, and Customer Service also grew—skills that complement AI literacy and are increasingly valued in a world where automation meets human interaction.

Risks and Readiness



The enthusiasm is promising, but not without urgency. A report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) finds that 40% of jobs in the Philippines could be significantly impacted by AI, with 14% at direct risk of displacement. Meanwhile, 96% of businesses in the country say they intend to upskill their workforce to meet the demands of AI—a figure that exceeds the global average by nearly 20 percentage points.

Still, barriers to access remain. Women, for instance, make up only 37% of GenAI enrollees in the country, despite representing the majority of Coursera's overall learner base in the Philippines. If left unaddressed, such gaps risk reinforcing inequalities in the country's tech-driven future.

Bridging these divides will require more than personal initiative. It will need deep public-private collaboration, integration of micro-credentials into higher education, and policy support that ensures no learner is left behind.

The Path Ahead

With over 2.7 million learners and a median age of 32, the Philippines stands at the intersection of youth, digital fluency, and global opportunity. But to fully realize its potential in the AI age, the country must invest in inclusive education strategies that serve both the tech-savvy and the underserved.

The 2025 Global Skills Report offers a timely reminder: the skills that define the future aren't reserved for a few—they're built by everyone willing to learn, adapt, and move forward.

For more insights and the full report, visit coursera.org.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT DIGITAL GENERATION

Alibaba Cloud partners with DLSU and Mapúa University to equip Filipino students with future-ready skills in AI and cloud computing.



Alibaba Cloud joins hands with Mapúa University to cultivate future digital talents in the Philippines

In an era defined by artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing, the Philippines is taking bold steps to future-proof its workforce. At the forefront of this initiative is Alibaba Cloud, the digital technology and intelligence backbone of the Alibaba Group, through its robust Academic Empowerment Program (AAEP). In 2025, Alibaba Cloud strengthened its commitment to the country's digital transformation by forging strategic partnerships with two leading academic institutions: De La Salle University (DLSU) and Mapúa University.

These collaborations mark a significant milestone in cultivating the next generation of digital professionals—empowering Filipino students with world-class training, tools, and certifications in AI and cloud technologies.

Strategic Alliances for a Digital-Ready Philippines

At DLSU, students and faculty gain access to specialized training, hands-on lab sessions, and internationally recognized Alibaba Cloud certifications. The partnership launched in April 2025 with the “AI Learning Journey,” offering foundational knowledge in AI principles and Alibaba Cloud’s infrastructure. Follow-up modules on cloud deployment and infrastructure management are scheduled throughout the year, all designed to equip participants with practical skills aligned with real-world applications.

Mapúa University, long recognized as the country’s premier engineering and technological school and the first to offer AI engineering at the undergraduate level, integrates Alibaba Cloud’s advanced training into its curriculum. In support of the Department of Science and Technology’s National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (NAIS Ph), this partnership underscores Mapúa’s mission to develop future-ready professionals who can compete—and lead—on a global stage.

“This collaboration with Alibaba Cloud allows us to embed cutting-edge AI and cloud computing technologies into our learning ecosystem,” said Dr. Dodjie Maestrecampo, president and CEO of Mapúa University. “Our graduates will not only be equipped for today’s workforce but will also drive tomorrow’s innovation.”

A Holistic Approach to Digital Talent Development

Alibaba Cloud’s AAEP provides a comprehensive learning experience for users across a range of skill levels, from beginner to advanced. Both DLSU and Mapúa students can benefit from live workshops, online courses, public lectures, and self-paced learning modules available through the Alibaba Cloud Academy. With over 250 courses and 270 labs offered in 19 languages, the program enables scalable learning that reaches far beyond traditional classrooms.

“Through these partnerships, we aim to bridge the gap between academia and industry,” said Allen Guo, country manager for Alibaba Cloud Intelligence in



the Philippines. “By cultivating a pipeline of skilled professionals, we’re not just addressing the talent shortage—we’re helping build the foundation for sustainable digital growth.”

Enabling Inclusive Innovation

According to the Philippine Institute of Development Studies, the country faces a substantial talent shortage in key fields such as AI, machine learning, and cybersecurity. These partnerships directly address that gap by delivering curriculum-relevant content and industry-grade tools, opening doors for students to participate in a globally competitive digital economy.

The program also aligns with the national agenda to promote inclusive innovation. As AI continues to disrupt and define sectors—from healthcare to transportation to public governance—initiatives like AAEP ensure that the Filipino workforce is not left behind but empowered to lead.

Building Futures in the Cloud

Whether at DLSU’s College of Computer Studies or Mapúa’s advanced engineering programs, the integration of Alibaba Cloud’s training programs signifies more than just technical education. It’s a visionary investment in people. These students are not merely learning to use technology—they’re preparing to shape its future.

As both universities move forward with the AAEP framework, the hope is clear: to produce a generation of digital talents capable of transforming industries, solving local and global problems, and positioning the Philippines as a key player in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

HONDA FUELS YOUTH INNOVATION AT 8TH IMAKE. WEMAKE

Student teams win big for tech
solutions in marine conservation,
aquaculture, and inclusivity

Youth Innovation Prize Award



BANTAYAN SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL

Project LUSAI: An IoT-based LiDAR Utilizing USV for
Seagrass Mapping and Aquatic Inspections



Demonstrating its steadfast commitment to Filipino youth and innovation, Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) once again partnered with the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) for the 8th cycle of the **imake.wemake:create. innovate.collaborate** competition, culminating in a vibrant showcase of student ingenuity and social impact.

Held on April 24-25, 2025 at Ascott Bonifacio Global City, the Final Presentation and Awarding Ceremony featured 20 student teams from across the country, each unveiling projects that tackled real-world challenges through science, technology, and creativity. Honda's involvement, now in its third consecutive year, aligns with its global brand philosophy: *The Power of Dreams – How We Move You*, reflecting a commitment to shaping a better future through innovation.

As a major supporter of the program, HCPI once again sponsored the **Youth Innovation Prize (YIP)**, awarding PHP200,000 each to three outstanding school teams whose projects stood out for their novelty, functionality, collaboration, and real-world impact.

This year's YIP Awardees:

Bantayan Science High School impressed the judges with *Project LUSAI*, an IoT-powered unmanned surface vehicle using LiDAR to map seagrass beds and monitor aquatic conditions. The project promises faster, more accurate marine assessments, supporting ocean conservation efforts in coastal areas.

Lala National High School introduced *C.R.A.B.-Tech*, a robotic baiting system that streamlines mud crab harvesting through load sensors and automation. By targeting only market-ready crabs, the project promotes sustainable aquaculture and better livelihoods for local crab farmers.



Rizal National Science High School developed *SALIN*, a wearable device that converts spoken language into Filipino Sign Language animations in real-time. Combining Arduino and AI technology, the innovation provides a meaningful solution for the hearing-impaired community and offers critical support to Special Needs Education (SNEd) initiatives in the country.

Inspiring the students was Engr. Mark Kennedy Bantugon, a DOST scholar and inventor of the acclaimed Pili Seal. Sharing his journey from humble beginnings to national recognition, Bantugon encouraged the finalists to remain curious, persistent, and hopeful. “Never underestimate the power of humble beginnings,” he told them. “From small starts come great things, if you dare to keep building.”

The *imake.wemake* competition continues to be a powerful platform for students to showcase their skills in science, engineering, and problem-solving. For Honda, it is a reaffirmation of its belief in nurturing young minds and fueling the aspirations of future innovators.

“As times change and the needs of the nation evolve, Honda remains committed to supporting programs that empower the next generation,” HCPI said in a statement. “We believe in the youth’s ability to imagine boldly, and we are proud to walk with them on the path from dreams to reality.”

To learn more about Honda’s youth-focused initiatives, visit: https://global.honda/en/philanthropy/youth_for_the_future/

THRIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

How young Filipinos are turning to AI and online platforms to take charge of their mental well-being

There's a quiet shift happening in the way young Filipinos care for themselves—not in clinics or waiting rooms, but in chat apps, browser tabs, and quiet moments of introspection with the help of technology. In a world where burnout often feels like the default, an emerging generation is finding strength in unconventional ways.

AXA Philippines' 2025 Mind Health Report offers a sobering snapshot of the country's mental health landscape. Stress, anxiety, and depression are on the rise—especially among Filipinos aged 18 to 34. Yet alongside the challenges, something hopeful is taking root: a willingness to seek help, to adapt, and to innovate.

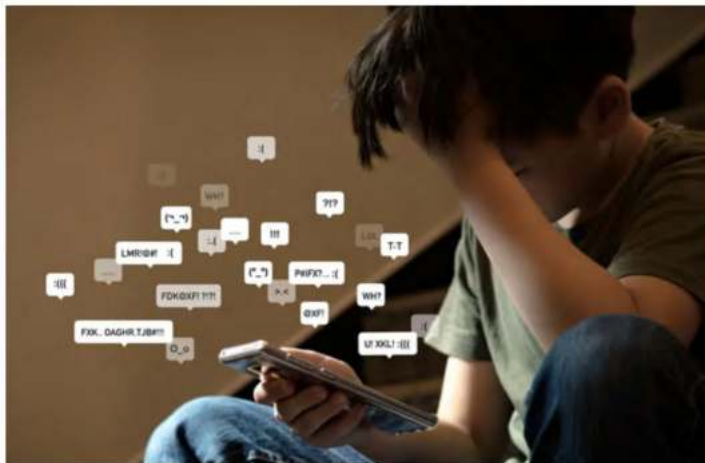


Not Just Surviving, But Searching

This isn't a story about decline. It's a story about resourcefulness. About how, in the face of financial uncertainty, job insecurity, and social isolation, young people are choosing to stay curious about their well-being.

Nearly 70% of Filipinos report experiencing some form of psychological distress. They're not alone, but many feel like they are. The traditional support systems aren't always enough, or available. And so, they're looking elsewhere.

What they're finding is a world of possibility in the digital space. According to the report, 39% of young Filipinos now use AI-powered mental health tools—far above the global average. These range from guided meditations and self-assessments to more advanced chatbots and digital therapy platforms. It's not a silver bullet, but it's a start. And for many, that's everything.



Rethinking Wellness in the Workplace

It's impossible to talk about stress without talking about work. Filipino employees are among the most stressed in the world. Long hours, economic pressures, and the weight of future uncertainty are taking a toll. But there's a growing realization that workplaces can be part of the solution.

The report urges employers to do more than just offer wellness webinars. What's needed are safe spaces. Clear policies. Conversations that go deeper. Some health plans have started including mental health consultations. Others are beginning to cover select mental health conditions—an important step toward normalizing care.

Still, the most impactful shift may come from within the organizations themselves: leadership that values empathy, peers who check in, and environments that don't just expect productivity—but support humanity.

A Culture of Self-Checking

Unlike generations past, today's youth are growing up with the language of mental health. Terms like “languishing” and “flourishing” aren't just academic—they're personal.

AXA's Mind Health Index places people on a continuum from “struggling” to “flourishing,” and many Filipino youth fall on the lower end of that spectrum. But rather than being discouraged, they're turning that awareness into action. They're journaling. They're checking in with themselves. They're listening to mental health podcasts. They're using tools like AXA's Mind Health Self-Check to reflect—quietly, privately, on their own terms.

This shift toward self-awareness is key. It's not just about solving problems when they arise. It's about building emotional literacy—learning to recognize early signs of burnout, anxiety, or low mood before they spiral.

“Because mental health is not just a personal issue—it's a public one. And tackling it requires shared understanding, accessible tools, and sustained support,” said AXA Philippines CEO Ayman Kandil. “And while we still have a long way to address the gaps, know you can do something now and thrive with the right support.”

A Future Shaped by Care

In the end, what the 2025 AXA Mind Health Report reveals isn't just a mental health crisis—it's a cultural transformation. Young Filipinos are not waiting for permission to prioritize their well-being. They are doing the work themselves. Often quietly. Often online. But always with intention.

It's time we paid attention—not just to the data, but to the direction. Because what's emerging is not just a new way to cope—it's a new definition of what it means to care for oneself, and for each other.

And that, more than any single tool or trend, is what real wellness looks like.

A SMARTER WAY TO CLEAN YOUR HOME

Tineco, a global brand known for its intelligent home appliances, introduces a new line of vacuum cleaners in the Philippines. Built for modern, fast-paced lifestyles, these vacuums bring innovative features to everyday homes.

With work, family, and everything in between, keeping a clean home can feel like a full-time job. Add pets, kids, or shared spaces, and the mess multiplies. Professional-level cleaning sounds great, but it often comes with a less-than-friendly price tag.

Fortunately, smarter, more budget-friendly cleaning tools, designed to take the stress out of everyday chores, are now within reach. Imagine a vacuum that adjusts itself based on

the mess, cleans corners effortlessly, and doesn't get tangled up in pet hair or long strands. Sounds like something from the future, right?

Today's cleaning tech does more than just suck up dirt. Features like self-adjusting suction, anti-tangle brush heads, and oversized tanks make cleaning faster and more efficient. You spend less time stopping to empty bins or detangle hair and more time enjoying a cleaner space.

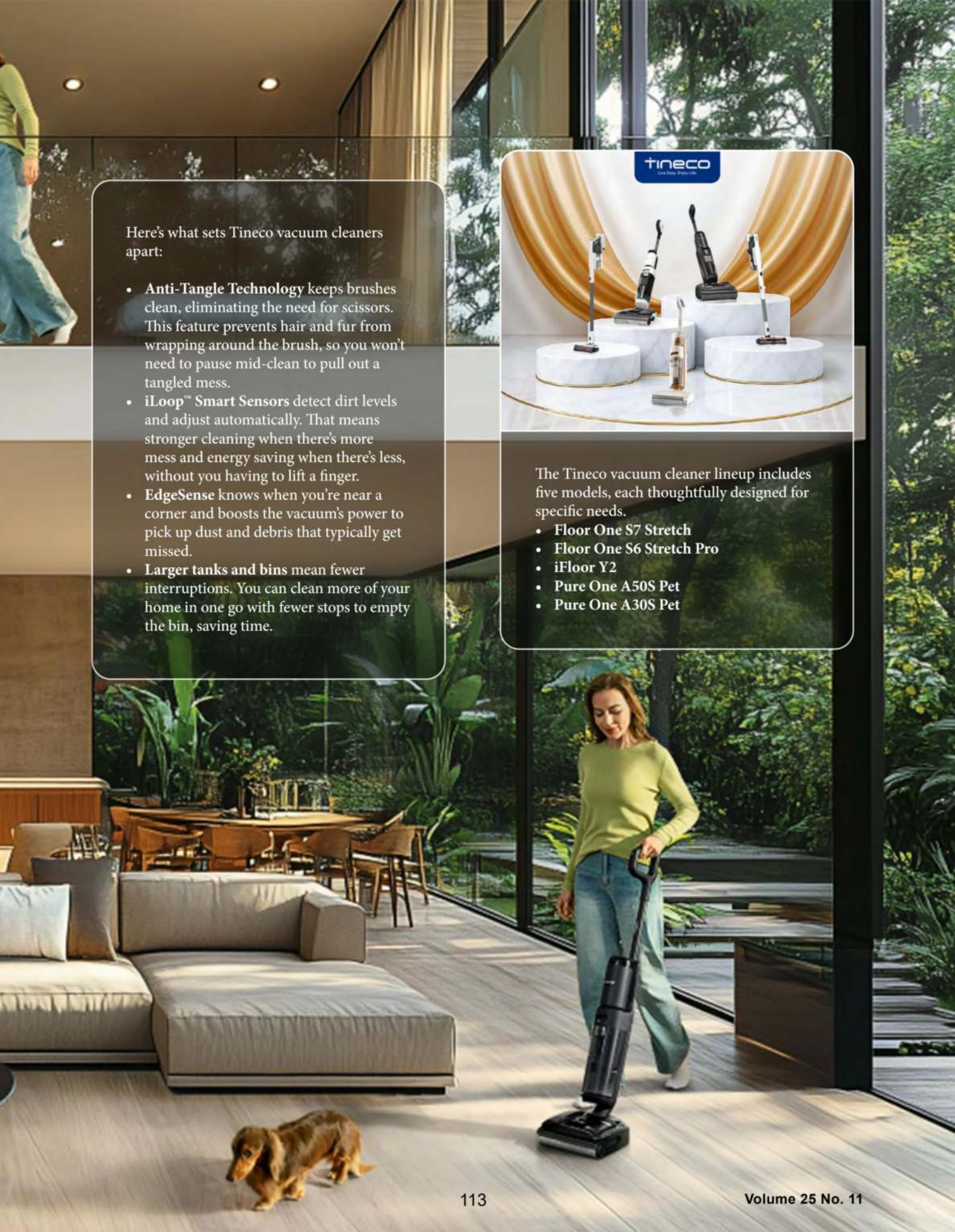
Here's what sets Tineco vacuum cleaners apart:

- **Anti-Tangle Technology** keeps brushes clean, eliminating the need for scissors. This feature prevents hair and fur from wrapping around the brush, so you won't need to pause mid-clean to pull out a tangled mess.
- **iLoop™ Smart Sensors** detect dirt levels and adjust automatically. That means stronger cleaning when there's more mess and energy saving when there's less, without you having to lift a finger.
- **EdgeSense** knows when you're near a corner and boosts the vacuum's power to pick up dust and debris that typically get missed.
- **Larger tanks and bins** mean fewer interruptions. You can clean more of your home in one go with fewer stops to empty the bin, saving time.



The Tineco vacuum cleaner lineup includes five models, each thoughtfully designed for specific needs.

- Floor One S7 Stretch
- Floor One S6 Stretch Pro
- iFloor Y2
- Pure One A50S Pet
- Pure One A30S Pet





KAYA MO MOVEMENT

UnionDigital Bank drives real financial inclusion for unbanked Filipinos



Partners and changemakers affirm their commitment to empower underserved Filipinos through the UnionDigital Bank-powered Kaya Mo Movement. From L-R: Sid Bada, head of clients, VISA Philippines; Florencia Pacla, commercial and consumer head of mWell; Mike Magpili, chief marketing officer, UnionDigital Bank; Danilo "Bong" Mojica II, PhD, president & CEO, UnionDigital Bank; Wealth coach Chinkee Tan; Community representatives Telly Moreño and Marjorie Sandoval; and Mark Joaquin Ruiz, co-founder & president, Hapinoy.

In a country where nearly 38 million adults remain unbanked, financial inclusion remains more than a buzzword—it is a national imperative. UnionDigital Bank (UD), the digital banking arm of Union Bank of the Philippines, is meeting that challenge head-on through the launch of the *Kaya Mo Movement*, a bold initiative that turns digital banking into a tool of empowerment for Filipinos often left out of the formal financial system.

At its core, *Kaya Mo* is about more than technology—it's about trust, access, and dignity. It's a commitment to reimagining what banking looks like for everyday Filipinos: sari-sari storeowners, delivery riders, informal workers, and daily wage earners.

"At UD, financial inclusion isn't just a mission—it's the lens through which we grow and serve our communities," said Danilo Mojica II, president and CEO of UD. "We design technology around real people, helping every Filipino, regardless of income or background, access tools that empower them to take charge of their financial journey."

DESIGNING FOR THE UNDERSERVED

Financial exclusion often stems from systems not built with low-income or informal sector workers in mind. UD's product suite is designed to change that. With no minimum balance and zero maintenance fees, UD Save encourages first-time savers to begin building financial resilience without fear of penalties. UD Time Deposit, with an entry threshold of just PHP1,000, lowers the barrier to long-term saving.

UD Loans—initially made available to select UnionBank payroll clients and pensioners—aim to bridge everyday gaps, covering needs like medical expenses or urgent bills. And with upcoming offerings such as UD Cash Loans, a virtual VISA card, early wage access, and microinsurance, the bank is crafting solutions that reflect how people actually earn, spend, and live.

"*Kaya Mo* is our promise to make financial inclusion real," said Mike Magpily, chief marketing officer of UD. "We're not just offering hope—we're introducing products that help Filipinos take control of their money... built around how Filipinos actually live, earn, and spend."

INCLUSION THROUGH ALTERNATIVE DATA

One of UD's most important innovations lies in its use of alternative data to extend credit. Many underserved Filipinos lack formal credit histories, making them invisible to traditional banks. By analyzing non-traditional data and refining its credit scoring models, UD is able to responsibly offer lending options to more people, without compromising risk management.

This approach moves financial inclusion from theory to practice. It ensures that even those without payslips or credit records have a path to financial mobility.

EMPOWERMENT WITH EMPATHY

The *Kaya Mo* launch event served not just to introduce products, but to elevate voices of those often unheard in financial circles. Partners like Hapinoy, a social enterprise supporting microentrepreneurs, underscored the power of inclusive finance when paired with empathy and support.

"Access to finance is one thing—but the gift of seeing a brighter future and having the agency to make it happen is what truly changes lives," said Mark Joaquin Ruiz, co-founder and president of Hapinoy. "With UD's support, many sari-sari storeowners are shifting from day-to-day survival to long-term financial planning."

Workshops during the launch event reinforced financial literacy as a vital tool in the inclusion journey. Wealth coach Chinkee Tan guided participants through relatable scenarios like how to budget on a tight income, save in small amounts, and make borrowing a stepping stone, not a setback.

A MOVEMENT, NOT JUST A CAMPAIGN

More than a marketing initiative, *Kaya Mo* is positioned as a sustained movement to reshape digital banking in the Philippines. "We're not just refreshing how we look; we're refreshing how we serve," Mojica emphasized. "We want to continue to be a true partner in every Filipino's journey—from meeting daily needs to securing the future. With UD, *Kaya Mo*."

At a time when trust in financial institutions is hard-won, especially among those long excluded, UnionDigital's strategy stands out. It's about making systems flexible enough to meet people where they are, while giving them the tools to move forward.

In the long journey toward financial inclusion, *Kaya Mo* reminds us that the destination is not just access—it's agency, confidence, and the quiet power of believing: *kaya mo talaga*.

A FINAL ACT OF LOVE THAT LIVES ON

Singlife offers Protect from Funeral Costs insurance

In Filipino culture, being present is everything. Whether it's for birthdays, emergencies, or moments of grief, showing up is how we show love. But what if you couldn't be there when it matters most?

With Protect from Funeral Costs, the latest offering in the Singlife Plan & Protect App, Singlife Philippines makes it possible to do one last act of love—to show up for those that matter most, even when you no longer can.



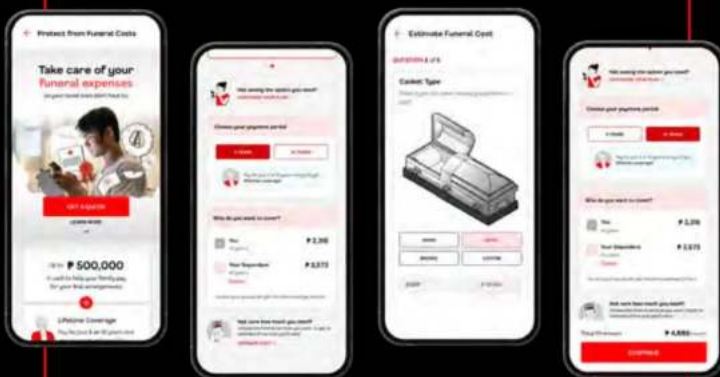
This whole life insurance product offers a lump sum benefit of up to PHP500,000, which can help families cover funeral arrangements or other end-of-life expenses, providing peace of mind to both policyholders and their loved ones. Fully accessible through the Singlife all-digital mobile platform, this solution empowers every Filipino to prepare responsibly, protect those they love, and continue showing up—even in their absence.

“Losing someone you love is already one of life’s most difficult moments, and having to rely on ‘abuloy’ or having to pass the hat just to pay for funeral costs makes it even harder,” said Lester Cruz, chief executive officer of Singlife Philippines. “Protect from Funeral Costs allows you to prepare in advance and leave behind a final act of love, one that ensures your family can grieve without financial worry. It’s part of our mission at Singlife: to empower every Filipino toward financial independence—in life, and beyond it.”

Growing Suite of Protection in the Singlife Plan & Protect App

Protect from Funeral Costs joins Singlife's best-in-class suite of affordable, mobile-first insurance and investment solutions. These include life insurance, medical cost protection, and investment-linked plans—all designed to put financial control directly in the hands of customers. Like booking a flight or managing a savings account, buying funeral protection can now be done anytime, anywhere.

With funeral expenses in the Philippines typically exceeding PHP200,000, Singlife's latest product provides straightforward, flexible coverage in the face of a very real financial risk.



A Final Act of Protection. A Lifetime of Love.

In a country where insurance penetration remains below 2%, Singlife Philippines is challenging the status quo by offering simple, relevant solutions that meet Filipinos where they are—on their phones, and in real life.

With Protect from Funeral Costs, the company transforms what used to be a taboo topic into a powerful expression of love and foresight. Because even if you can't be there, your protection still can be. Because love doesn't stop—even when life does.

Protect from Funeral Costs is now available exclusively in the **Singlife Plan & Protect App**, downloadable on the App Store and Google Play. Check how much coverage you need using the financial analysis tool.

The Protection You Leave Behind

Protect from Funeral Costs offers a lump sum cash benefit, providing your family with the flexibility to honor your final wishes in their own way. Whether it's for a modest ceremony or a more elaborate farewell, your loved ones can decide how to use the money without being locked into a fixed package from a funeral service provider. The product was designed with key features to give customers a convenient and easy way to plan for their funeral expenses.

- **Customizable and affordable protection:** You can choose coverage from PHP100,000 to PHP500,000. Premiums are pocket-friendly, starting at just PHP447 per month, with payment terms of just 5 or 10 years—and your coverage lasts until age 120.
- **Built-in Financial Needs Analysis:** Not sure how much coverage you need? This feature helps you estimate how much your family may need based on your preferred funeral type, casket, memorial lot, number of viewing days, and expected guests. Since most people don't realize how much a funeral can cost, this unique tool empowers you to plan ahead and ensure your family won't be caught off guard.
- **Yearly coverage boost:** Keep your policy active and enjoy additional coverage each year at no extra cost, helping you stay ahead of inflation and rising funeral expenses. Coverage boosts come from non-guaranteed dividends, and their performance depends on market conditions.
- **Spouse and child coverage:** Extend protection to your spouse or life partner under one plan. Starting from the second policy year, you also have the option to enroll your child for coverage at no extra cost—no need to buy a separate policy for them.
- **Waiver of premiums due to disability:** If you become permanently disabled during your premium payment period, you won't have to worry about future payments—your premium payments will be waived but your coverage will remain active and in force.
- **Cash value and loan access:** Over time, your policy builds cash value, which you can borrow from starting in the fourth year, giving you extra financial flexibility when needed.
- **Immediate cash assistance:** Your beneficiaries will receive 10% of the cash benefit in advance upon submission of the policyholder's death certificate and beneficiary's identity verification. This helps cover urgent funeral expenses, with the remaining amount released upon claim approval.



Ida Evina Ong-Co, managing director of HP Philippines, shares how HP remains committed to meeting the diverse needs of gamers in the country through high-performance technology and personalized experience.

HP OPENS SOUTHEAST ASIA'S FIRST OMEN PLAYGROUND

Filipino gamers now have a new hub to explore, compete, and connect, as HP officially opened Southeast Asia's very first OMEN concept store. Dubbed the HP OMEN Playground, the store launched with a three-day celebration from May 23 to 25, 2025, marking a major milestone in HP's commitment to the fast-growing gaming community in the Philippines.

Located at the 4th floor of Cyberzone in SM Megamall, the OMEN Playground is more than just a retail space—it's a fully immersive gaming arena designed to showcase HP's ecosystem of high-performance laptops, desktops, peripherals, and HyperX accessories. The space aims to serve as both a discovery zone and community hub, welcoming everyone from casual players to aspiring esports athletes.

HP Philippines managing director Ida Evina Ong-Co emphasized the company's focus on personalization and performance in meeting the unique needs of local gamers.

"The gaming industry in the Philippines continues to grow at an

exciting pace, with over 43 million gamers driving demand for high-performance and personalized experiences," Ong-Co said. "Through the OMEN Playground, we want to give Filipino gamers a space where they can truly experience how our innovations in performance, personalization, and AI can transform the way they play."

The Philippines' esports market, currently valued at over USD26 million, is projected to more than double by 2033. With the opening of the OMEN Playground, HP stakes its claim at the center of this dynamic evolution, offering powerful tools and memorable experiences that resonate with a new generation of tech-savvy players.

The launch weekend was packed with activities that highlighted both community engagement and product performance. On May 25, fans cheered on participants in a 1v1 Valorant "King of the Hill" Deathmatch and joined the excitement of the Valorant Cosplay Challenge. Exclusive deals, including discounts of up to PHP30,000 for the first 10 buyers each day, added to the

buzz. Early shoppers also walked away with free HyperX gear, Uniqlo gift certificates, and other prizes through the store's Pick-a-Prize promo.

What makes the OMEN Playground stand out is its integrated approach. Combining cutting-edge gaming technology with a vibrant atmosphere, the store showcases the full OMEN and Victus range, known for delivering top-tier gaming performance at competitive price points. These devices feature advanced processors, fast-refresh rate displays, and high-capacity SSDs, bringing serious power to every level of gameplay.

To ensure a seamless experience, HP has also rolled out a 2-year home service warranty for its OMEN lineup, offering peace of mind for those investing in their gaming future.

With the launch of the OMEN Playground, HP is not just entering the local gaming scene—it's redefining it. Visit HP Philippines to explore more about the OMEN and Victus product lines and to stay updated on future innovations.

EPSON BUSINESS INKJET PRINTERS ACHIEVE DATAMASTER LAB 5-STAR RATINGS



Epson, a global leader in professional printing, has been [awarded the highest rating from DataMaster Lab](#) in 2025, with a full five stars for the Epson WorkForce Enterprise Series AM-C400 and AM-C550.

DataMaster Lab has tested office and production equipment in real-world business scenarios since 2009, using international standards to ensure reliable, comparable results. Its evaluations of print quality strictly follow ISO methodologies, providing an objective and comprehensive analysis of device capabilities.

DataMaster Lab's evaluation concluded that the Epson WorkForce Enterprise printers demonstrate consistent reliability, performing steadily throughout the testing process. Both the AM-C400 and AM-C550 display efficiency while consuming low power, reinforcing the environmental benefits of Epson's Heat-Free Technology.

Productivity was another standout feature, with both printers delivering impressive print speeds. They achieved

100% productivity in duplex mode and maintained 94% and 92% productivity in workgroup mode, respectively. DataMaster also commended these printers as the first A4 machines to have the new C-shape paper path, which reliably offers full-speed double-sided printing at their compact size.

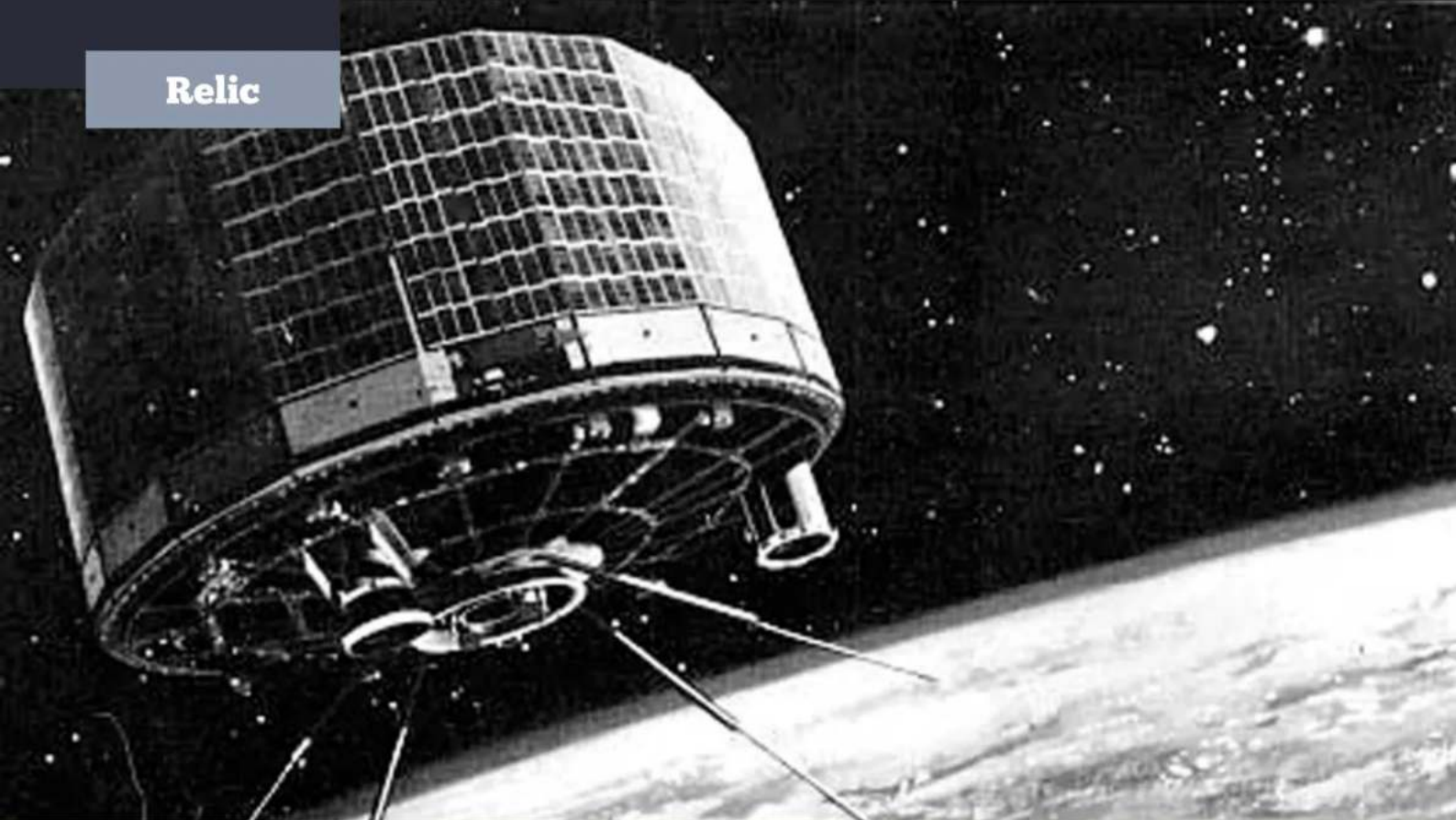
The AM-C400 and AM-C550 set themselves apart from the competition by requiring significantly fewer consumable replacements than comparable models. The AM-C400 needed only one-third the number of consumable changes, while the AM-C550 required half as many, reducing maintenance demands and operational costs for busy offices.

In addition to meeting ISO standards, DataMaster Lab praised the Epson WorkForce Enterprise printers for their 'exemplary environmental credentials,' with typical electrical consumption for 'approximately a third of that of competitors'.

Lastly, DataMaster Lab lauded Epson's printers for their paper-saving habits,

as they can print on both sides as fast as on a single side. These features translate to less downtime, lower environmental impact, and reduced operational costs. With the five-star ratings of the WorkForce Enterprise printers, Epson's products can help businesses meet evolving demands for any business needs.

"We are thrilled to receive five-star reviews from DataMaster Lab for our WorkForce Enterprise AM-C400 and AM-C550 printers. This recognition from such a respected independent testing authority affirms our dedication to innovation and quality," shared Jester Cruz, senior regional manager for corporate products, Epson Southeast Asia. "Epson's groundbreaking Heat-Free Technology has revolutionized printing solutions by combining exceptional productivity, unmatched reliability that contribute to significant reductions in energy consumption and operational costs. We are passionate about empowering businesses to advance their sustainability objectives unlike any other – and we are honored that DataMaster Lab agrees."



TIROS-1

Words by Jose Alvarez

The Philippines is one of the most affected areas in the world in terms of natural disasters, including earthquakes, typhoons, volcanic eruptions, and floods. The catastrophic effects of anthropogenic climate change often manifest in the country in the form of typhoons. Readers may remember Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in 2013, one of the most powerful typhoons in recorded history and (as of this writing) the deadliest typhoon in Philippine history.

One of the ways we track typhoons today is through weather satellites, which bring some form of predictability to weather patterns and allow us to plan accordingly to reduce damage and casualties caused by typhoons. The Philippines, on average, experiences approximately 20 typhoons per year. But who made this possible, and what did it take to accomplish this? My research led me to the Television Infrared Observation Satellite (TIROS-1), also known as TIROS-A, which was the first weather satellite in existence.

The Cold War began almost immediately after World War II. The United States and the Soviet Union sought not only to dominate geopolitical affairs but also to extend their rivalry beyond Earth and into space. While the Soviet Union achieved this first with the Sputnik satellite in 1957, the United States sought to outdo its rival superpower. The TIROS project was promoted by meteorologist Harry Wexler (1911-1962). It involved several government agencies and corporations, namely the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA, now DARPA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) among others across the scientific, military, and technology sectors.

The concept for TIROS emerged as early as the late 1940s, with studies continuing into the 1950s. A committee headed by William Welch Kellogg of the RAND

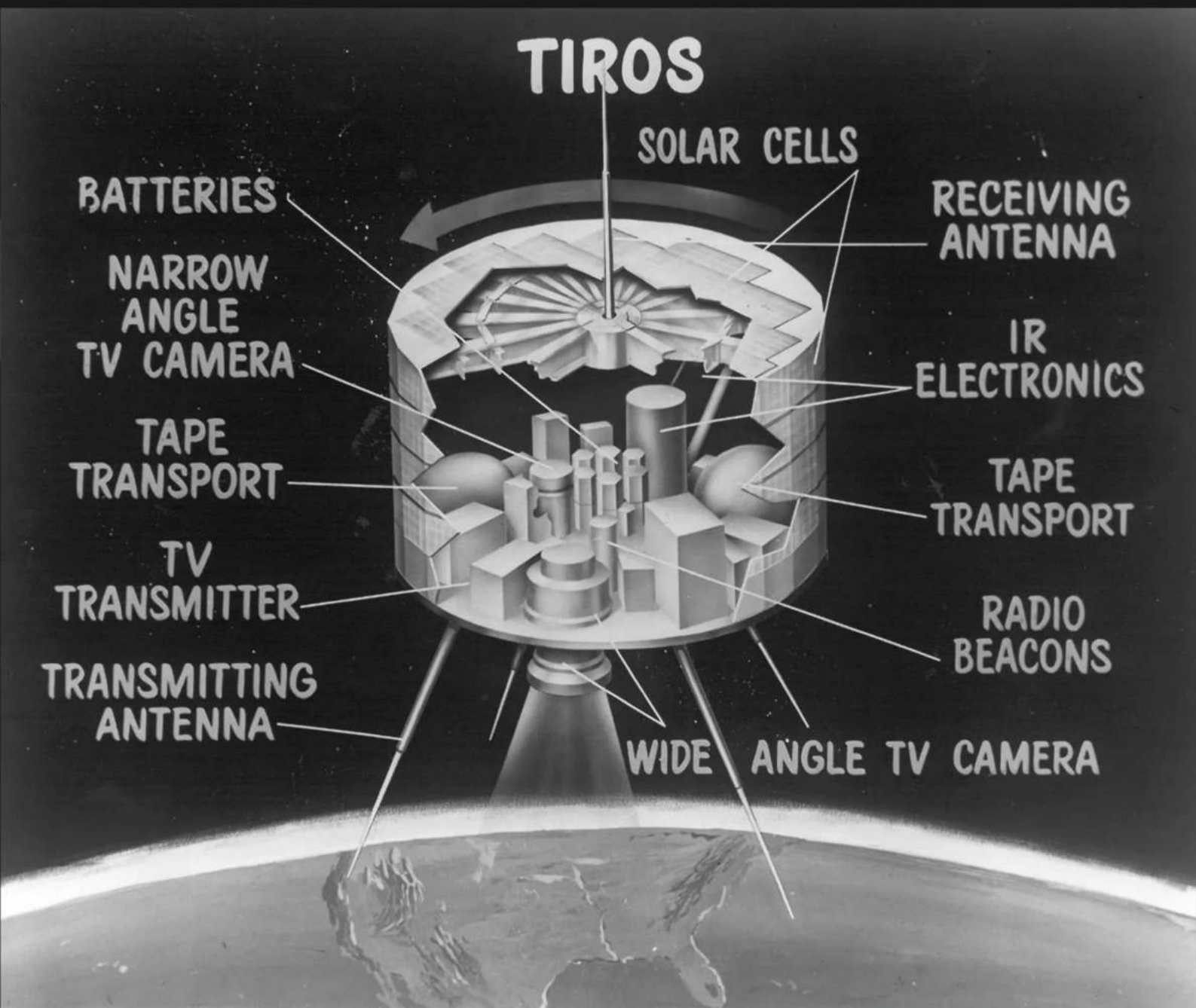
Corporation, with representatives from various branches of the United States military, eventually concluded in 1958 that the program should provide observations of cloud cover with television cameras at coarser and finer resolutions, coupled with infrared measurements of the Earth's radiation. The development of TIROS was initially classified information, meaning that only select members of the United States government were privy to this information. The development of the satellite was contracted to the Army Signal Corps Laboratories for USD3.6 million, although the exact date is unknown (assuming 1960 dollars, this would be ~USD39.1 million in 2025).

The initial design called for three separate satellites, each with a two-lens optical television system, an improved infrared scanning system, and a radiometer to measure Earth's energy budget. While we can delve more deeply into the science behind such an invention, in brief, these were the primary objectives of the TIROS

program. TIROS-1 launched on April 1, 1960. This satellite initially featured only a two-lens optical television system, but additional features were added later with the launches of TIROS-2, TIROS-3, and TIROS-4. The original TIROS series was commissioned from 1960 to 1967, while newer satellites were launched all the way until 2009.

What did TIROS-1 accomplish? It proved the feasibility of using satellites to observe global weather patterns.

While it didn't have an impact on news coverage, it did improve weather forecasting, encouraged improvements on future similar satellites, and enabled weather to be observed from space, allowing humanity to see the impacts of anthropogenic climate change in real-time. As of this writing, all of the original TIROS satellites, with the exception of TIROS-7, are still in orbit. TIROS-1 provided us with actionable data to address the challenges posed by the weather, and we should be thankful for such an invention.



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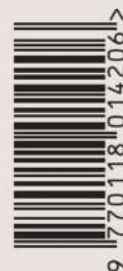


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